

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ELECTRICAL UNION ...NEWS

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



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No. 1

Leadership, Rank and File

RESPONSIBILITY OF LABOR LEADERS

A leader is chosen by his fellowmen because of certain outstanding qualities such as devotion and perseverance for the objectives of the organization or group over which a leader is chosen. The main responsibility of a leader is to lead and to set a correct course for the welfare of the group as a whole. In all democratic organizations the rank and file have the privilege of approving or disapproving the recommendations or the plans of the leadership. This is their prerogative. It is never the prerogative of the rank and file to attempt in any way to stifle the leadership.

TRUE LEADERSHIP—

A true leader will never sit back and attempt to carry out the wishes of every individual to the detriment of the group as a whole. A leader will not waiver before the group when he believes he is right regardless of whether he stays in office or not. Certain types of opportunists or would-be leaders play upon the apparent grievances of the group regardless of their merits. This type of opportunist will get before a group and make preposterous demands upon the organization and upon the duly elected leadership knowing full well that they cannot satisfy these demands. Failing to do so they go before their constituents and tell them that they are ready to fight for these demands but that the Executive Board or of the officers are holding them down and will not carry the fight through.

FEAR RESPONSIBILITY

These people lack the courage to get up before a group and take a position when that position is right because they might antagonize part of the group. This type of opportunist yells the loudest about rank and file control — that the leadership should not even talk before a group — that the leadership should not influence the rank and file. In other words, this type of opportunist is saying, in fact, to the rank and file "I don't know how to lead you. I have no confidence in myself, therefore I cannot recommend any action to you. I don't want to influence you in your decision because if I do, I might be blamed for it and I lack the guts to assume such a responsibility."

Yes, we have this type of leadership in some of our sections in the plant. We are happy that they are a small minority. However, this irresponsible minority causes the leadership to spend much valuable time healing up the breaches in the unity of our Union caused by this minority, which valuable time is greatly needed to better serve our members.

LOCAL 301 LEADERSHIP APPROVED

The leadership of Local 301, over a period of years has developed this labor union (as recognized by leaders in the community and the country) into an outstanding organization for the betterment of the working conditions and wages of its thousands of members. Since 1936, when Local 301 became the sole bargaining agency for the thousands of General Electric workers in the companies Schenectady Plant, no sit-downs or strikes have taken place and the workers interests were greatly advanced. This same leadership has guided the CIO labor unions in the area; and this area now enjoys the reputation of having the finest industrial relations in the country. This kind of labor industrial relation has made it possible to break all the production records for the producing of the vitally needed war materials to maintain us as free American working people. We do not believe that these opportunists truly express the desires and aspirations of the membership; and the membership will certainly and inevitably repudiate these false leaders as they have done in the past.

LABOR'S WAR RECORD PRAISED BY WALLACE

DETROIT, July 25—In a hard-hitting speech lashing out at enemies of President Roosevelt — some of whom he dubbed "American Fascists" — Vice-President Henry A. Wallace this week told a large mass meeting of the Detroit Committee for the American Tomorrow that some of the same forces seek the destruction of American unions.

Praising labor's record in war production, Wallace said:

"Labor is beginning to do its part in enlightening the public. It is beginning to make crystal clear that 97-per cent of labor has cooperated 100 per cent with our Government in the war effort.

Blasts Anti-Labor Demagogues

"And it is possible to get figures that show this even better, but I wanted to have these figures absolutely immune to any critics. And so I say, let that group which can show a more comprehensive effort throw the first stone.

"The people of America know that the second step toward fascism is the destruction of labor unions. There are midget Hitlers here who continually attack labor. There are other demagogues blind to the errors of every other group who shout, 'We love labor, but . . .'

"Both the midget Hitlers and the demagogues are enemies of America. Both would destroy labor unions if they could. Labor should be fully aware of its friends and of its enemies."

Our Union and the War

Recent events have proven that the war can only be won by the fullest cooperation on the part of organized labor . . . especially on the production lines . . . to give its utmost effort to keep the war materials flowing to our boys at the front and to the free peoples of the world fighting our battle.

We know that the working people of the nations conquered by the Nazi and Fascist hordes have been the first to be enslaved.

We know that the more and faster we produce now the sooner the war will be won . . .

We know that by hitting Hitler hard on a Second Front at this time will save many millions of lives later on.

The Union as a whole is exerting every effort to produce more and more war material.

The Union needs the help and cooperation of every one of its members.

Postwar Period — The Union

After the war we are going to face a period of general readjustment . . . a conversion from a War Economy to a Peace Economy . . .

It will be a time when only the United Strength of all the working people of our nation will be able to save the country from complete chaos.

Organized labor should be united enough after the war . . . to assure that in the richest country in the world every American worker will have an equal opportunity to work and earn a decent standard of living.

IT'S BETTER TO PRODUCE AS FREE MEN FOR THE MAN WITH THE LONG WHISKERS THAN IT IS TO PRODUCE AS SLAVES FOR THE MAN WITH THE LITTLE MOUSTACHE.

ORIGINAL TORN

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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Congressman Barney Carney Interviewed

Editors note: Any similarity in names or characters in this interview is purely coincidental.

My yard is just lousy with grass roots, I'm the kind of man you meet in the street, and my initials happen to be John Q.

So it was only natural our Congressman should come to me to learn what the folks back home are thinking.

As soon as he got off the train, he put his ear to the ground, licked his fingers to see which way the wind was blowing, got a whiff of the grass roots in my victory garden, and trotted straight to my front door.

"John Q.," he said, "I'm going to be frank with you. Strike me dumb if I don't tell you about the blunt truth about my records."

"Okay, Congressman, fire away," I said.

"In the first place, I've done everything within my power to help win this war." But suddenly the Congressman's voice faded away. His lips struggled to form words, but no sound came.

"It seems you've been taken up on that crack-about being struck dumb." I said. "You'd better start again and stick to the truth."

The Congressman's voice returned as he said faintly: "It seems I have no other alternative."

Helped Forgive Millionaires' Taxes

"To get down to brass tacks then, Congressman, I'm a U. E. war worker. My wages were frozen a year ago, but living costs have kept on rising. And now my paycheck is cut 20% for tax deductions. Did you have anything to do with that?"

"I did," the Congressman replied reluctantly. "I voted to stabilize wages and prices as of last September. I support the Rmul plan to forgive a year's taxes to war millionaires and finally accepted a 75% compromise."

"I opposed the President's idea of limiting individual incomes to \$67,000. I helped overturn his \$25,000 net salary limit, and I voted against administration proposals for higher taxes on war profits."

"Naturally all these tax favors to the rich have to be made up somewhere, and you low-income folks are the goat. That's why I couldn't agree to CIO proposals for tax exemptions to leave the low-paid enough to live on."

"What about raising the rest of the tax money needed to win this war?" I asked.

"You'll likely be the goat again," the Congressman said. "If you don't stop me, John Q. Public, I'll vote for a big sales tax. After all, we've all got to make sacrifices . . ."

His voice started to fade again, till he pulled himself together and said: "I'll admit a sales tax imposes all the sacrifice on the poor, and it's true we could ask the wealthy to make some sacrifices."

Cut Funds For Grade Labeling

"You spoke about stabilizing prices as well as wages," I said. "But Mrs. John Q. has to pay twice as much for our grub as she did before. Have you helped Roosevelt and the OPA to roll back living costs to that September level you voted for?"

"Well, I voted to cut OPA's funds for enforcing price control; to forbid grade labeling to guard Mrs. John Q. against paying higher prices for inferior goods; and to turn over OPA administration to interested businessmen who love high prices and high profits."

"I also fought to the last ditch against food price subsidies — which are the only means to roll back living costs without skinning the farmer and the little businessman."

ON THE SPOT



(Seated under a glaring light, "Your Congressman" is put on the spot by the questions hung at him by his constituents. A housewife asks: "Will you vote for rollback?" A worker: "Do you want to win the war?" A farmer: "Do you support FERA?" A small businessman: "Are you for subsidies?" Youngster: "What about child care?")

"So you voted for higher living costs and inflation, I said.

"No . . ." the Congressman began, but as his voice started to fade again, he stopped and meekly answered, "Yes."

Fought Commander-in-Chief

"As a union man," I said, "I've taken a no-strike pledge, and my union's doing everything it can to boost war production. What have you done to help us?"

"I voted for the Smith-Connally act," the Congressman replied, "to provide for the calling of strikes, to encourage employers to provoke stoppages for union-busting purposes, and generally to hamstring your union in its war work."

"One final question Congressman. What have you done to promote national unity behind our Commander-in-Chief for victory?"

"I centered my fight on FDR and American labor. I voted for the Dies, Smith and Cox committees, to snipe at the administration and hamper its work. I opposed every FDR proposal for strengthening the home front. And I voted for all the labor-baiting bills."

"Now what do you think of my record, John Q.?"

"No wonder you choked when you talked of helping to win the war!" I replied.

Rickenbacker Got "His"

According to a report of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ex-Captain Eddie Rickenbacker's salary as President and Director of the Eastern Airlines for 1942 was \$35,519.84, about \$688.00 a week, which isn't "peanuts," even if he works a 60-hour week.

It is not our purpose to argue Mr. Rickenbacker's worth to the Eastern Airlines, nor is it with the attitude of "sour grapes" that we point out certain facts.

Rickenbacker publicly advocated abolishing the 40-hour law, — no overtime payments.

He was also publicly against the limiting of salaries to \$25,000 (clear after taxes).

He was the most vociferous advocate against the "loafing absentee which general charge has since proven to be a bubble, when investigated.

Another fact is that Rickenbacker was drawing his salary of over \$600.00 a week while he was absent from the job, so his statement that he was doing the other job (for the Government) for nothing was true, yet understandable.

All of which leads us to suggest that if these high paid gentlemen are really sincere about equalizing the sacrifices of the rest of us to those of the lads in the foxholes, then why don't they practice what they preach, or "pipe down".

Shop Shorts of Local 301 Members in G. E.

Turbine Department — Building No. 60

President F. M. Armstrong of G. E. Turbine Credit Union No. 1844 announced a meeting of the Board of Directors to be held at CIO Hall, August 10th at 7:30 P. M.

Mr. Alfred Hillener of the East Gallery, Building No. 60 had a very pleasant vacation at Jennie Lake. Upon his return home his Victory garden overwhelmed him. He has so many peppers and tomatoes he doesn't know what to do with them.

Mr. Raymond Montgomery enjoyed his vacation at Profile Inn near Elizabethtown. He says he caught oodles of fish of all sizes.

Mr. Sam DeNardo and family are enjoying rest at Wells. Sam is catching up on some late reading.

Miss Theresa Brooks and Mrs. Clara Bolson have joined up on the production front to help towards a speedy victory. The workers in East Gallery greet and welcome them.

William Heller has purchased a new home at 35 Haigh Avenue. He will soon have it in shape and will welcome his friends.

Lt. Freddie Kingsbury formerly of East Gallery, production section, visited his old pals in the East Gallery this week. His comments are that the shop looks very very good to me after five months on the desert. —Good Luck Freddie.

Foreman John Bailey wonders where Joe Rolbowski gets all his Whim Wiger and Vitality to cut his lawn after putting in a good days work.

Mrs. Betty Jane Collins and Mr. Patrick McGurn are celebrating their 29th birthday with a little party. No! even though they look alike, they are not twins.

Mr. James MacFarland and family spent a very pleasant vacation at Marblehead, Mass. Mr. James Allen and family are also enjoying a stay at Marblehead. James Allen borrowed James MacFarland's dog to protect his victory garden. Now on returning home, James MacFarland is using James Allens tomatoes.

The Bart teams of Foreman Jay and Foreman McGuire meet every noon at the rear of East Gallery. Jay's team—Eugene Madin, Roy Hamilton, Sam DeNardo, Max Frohner, Ray Montgomery, James Morritte. McGuire's team—Freeman Disbrow, Wm. Cronin, Gus Westfall, Wm. Hunter, John Horvath, James Allen.

Louis Pannone was called home from work. His daughter was taken with appendicitis and is now in the Ellis Hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Transmitter — Building No. 89

The TUG line announces the engagement of Helen Sokolski to Stanley Jankowski of the Dynamotor line. No date has been set for the wedding.

Jane Thomas has just returned from a two week's vacation which she spent in So. Carolina visiting her husband who is an aviation student there.

Marlorie Mahar enjoyed a visit recently with her brother who is stationed at Camp Shelby.

"Liz", Helen Garlands protegee is sporting a new salmon-colored dress — competition for "Pinky and Dinky" — mascots of the six line.

Eleanor DeBraccio was pleasantly surprised when her brother recently came home on furlough. Cpl. Jerry DeBraccio is stationed with the Signal Corps at Drew Field, Florida.

We are happy to welcome back Josephine Ruscitto who has been out several weeks because of illness.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Mildred Gundy to Cpl. George Cole and is to take place at Burnt Hills within the next month.

Sgt. Edward C. Starke of Fort Lewis, Washington, was home on furlough for 8 days. He left for camp August 2nd much to his sister Jayne's regret.

Joseph Flory severed his connection with General Electric Company last Tuesday for induction into the service. We all wish him the best of luck.

Louis Smith, committeeman for the inspectors on the TU lines is enjoying a week's well earned rest at his home at Mariaville.

Chick Sutherland, Pat Nacco, Lee Fredericks and Eldo Butera have volunteered to furnish us with news from their sections. Let them in on any choice tid-bits that come your way.

The Welded Products Bowling League is getting set to enjoy another successful season. They will bowl at Taberski's at 8:00 P. M. on Friday Nights. The Sheet Metal Bowlers of No. 52 are also getting ready for another season. Looks like it will be a race to see who gets the bowlers; the leagues, or Uncle Sammy.

Amos Leguire has been transferred to shot blast on the third trick.

Bill Ayotte and Orsen Osterhout go on their vacations next week. Orsen will stick around home sweet home, but Bill expects to go to see the big town and paint it red.

We would like the names of all the blood donors in this building, and how many times they have donated; and while we're on the subject, how about all you guys and gals making an early appointment? Their quota is falling short, so let's pitch in and help — huh?

Carl Anderson has left for Samson to take his basic training for the Navy, and Hugh Mackey enlists this week in the Sea Bees.

Who is the big bad wolf whose unearthly howls can be heard promptly at 12:05 every day?

If any of you receive word from some of our boys in the service, let us in on their news — we're all greatly interested. By the way get behind the "Boys in Service Fund". There are still some who are not cooperating. Collectors are around every Saturday, so get on the band wagon now!

Glen (Windy) Baugh, Building No. 52 and Isaac Walton, received a card from Perry Lenegan showing the whoppers he caught. Windy is now just a gentle zephyr.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thorpe spent three days taking in all the sights of New York.

Bill Tomeck was seen a-gallop along, cowboy suit and all. "Cowboy" Bill can be consulted on the finer points of hoss-back riding.

Pete Koslowski has been transferred from the second shift to the first.

Glad to see Marjorie Campbell back with us after being out sick.

Louie Chicoine, a four time donor to the Red Cross just donated a pint of blood to a sick friend at the hospital. Other donors in the tin shop are: Louie Strinka, Bernie Baltazar, Charles Nitschi, Benny Borzy and Lee Frederick.

"Mac" MacDougall was a recent guest of Steve Mady's for a (don't look now!) steak supper.

Hide your bots, boys! Eddie Slovak is buying up all the boats he can find, and floating them up at Conklinville. Starting a Navy of your own, Ed?

Al Ra'ar, and Louie Strinka are very busy these days; they're taking on jobs of their own.

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

REGULAR
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETING

Tues., Aug. 17, 1943
CIO HALL — 7:30 P. M.

ERIE BOULEVARD, COR. LIBERTY STREET
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE BOARD — LOCAL 301

ORIGINAL TORN