

HOW THE PIE IS CUT. The pie graph above shows how the present monthly \$2 dues were spent in the first six months of 1952. After all necessary expenses, there was a surplus of only 7c per member. The graphs on the right show the division of lost time (top) and payroll expenditures (bottom).

Petition for Dues Increase Circulated Throughout Plant

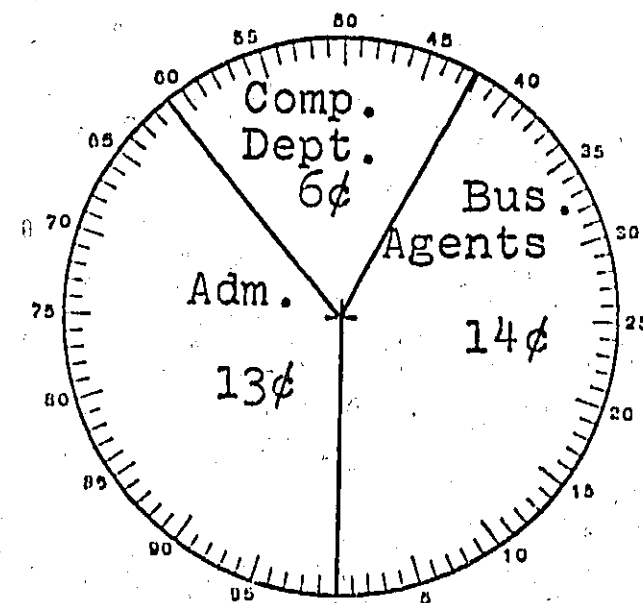
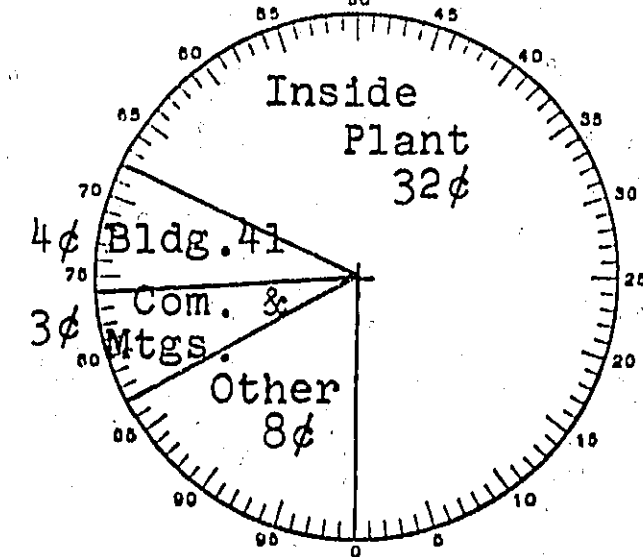
A petition to authorize a 50c monthly dues increase for UE Local 301 members is being circulated throughout the Schenectady works this week.

The petition is endorsed by the local officers and executive board as the best method to raise enough money to provide an adequate defense fund and to finance the construction of a badly needed new union hall. Land for the hall has already been purchased on Van Goyensing Ave. near Edison.

In approving the petition, the local leadership noted that a financial audit covering the first six months of this year showed that a surplus of only 7c per member per month was left after meeting the union's current financial needs. This was far short of the needs of Local 301 if it is to be protected against a strike or any other emergency by a defense fund. The proposed raise, if approved by the membership, would be placed in a special fund earmarked for defense and building and for other projects to be selected by the membership.

If the dues raise goes through, those persons who contributed \$5 to the recent defense fund will have their money refunded.

The financial audit showed that by far the largest portion of the present \$2 dues was spent right here in Schenectady. The only exceptions were the 75c per capita paid to cover UE Local 301's share of the national union's expenses and 10c a month which is sent to UE District Three.



Local Supports Measure To Guard Game Preserve

UE Local 301 support to a measure which would protect wild life in the Adirondack State Park against inroads by selfish power interests was voted by the executive board last Monday night.

The board decided to back the Ostrander amendment when it comes before the state legislature during the next session. This amendment would make a popular referendum necessary before any power project dam could be erected in the park which is the property of all of the people of the state.

The amendment has already been approved by the legislature once, but under New York State law it must pass two consecutive legislative sessions before becoming law.

The union action was taken after Paul Schaefer, chairman of the Schenectady County Conservation Commission, reported that private power interests were lobbying for defeat of the Ostrander amendment. Schaefer carefully documented his charges that the power companies were disguising their proposals as "flood control" projects in order to grab publicly-owned power. He cited the union's interests in preserving the last hunting and fishing preserve in New York for its members.

4 • Monday, August 18, 1952

Accuses Big Steel

The steel industry held a loaded gun at the government's head and forced the country into a "thoroughly useless, unnecessary, terrible" crisis to win a price increase, U. S. economic stabilizer Roger L. Putnam charged.

IUE-CIO Petitions Dismissed By NLRB in Five GE Plants

IUE-CIO attempts to divide General Electric employees during vital negotiations between UE and the company were frustrated last week when the National Labor Relations Board threw out petitions for elections in five of eight GE shops across the country.

All of the shops are now represented by UE. The board dismissed the IUE-CIO petitions in Oakland, Cal., Cleveland, O., Niles, O., Tiffin, O. and Elmira, N. Y. Similar action in the other three shops, including the Fort Edward-Hudson Falls GE plants, was expected momentarily.

In throwing out the petitions, the NLRB supported the UE contention that the existing IUE-GE contract barred any representation election at this time.

In almost all of the shops involved, IUE has little or no support and has already been decisively defeated in elections. However, the Carey group's strategy was obviously intended to divert

UE from the main task of negotiating an improved contract in the current modification talks with management.

Field Day Plans

Plans for the 1952 UE Local 301 Field Day, to be held on Sept. 28, moved forward last week with the activities committee finishing the job of drawing up a list of 25 prizes with a total of \$1,500.

These prizes will be won by purchasers of field day tickets which are expected to be in the plant by the end of this week. The tickets will sell at three for 50c, and not at 50c each as reported last week.

Inspector Wins 11c In Two Grievances

Wage increases totalling 11c an hour have been won by a Building 28 worker as a result of two grievances processed by UE Local 301 in less than two months.

The worker, Kenneth Girard, was made a Class C inspector in September, 1951, but was given a wage rate of only \$1.71, three steps below the job rate. This spring, the union, feeling that Girard was giving normal performance in the job demanded an increase. On June 30, as a result of the grievance, Girard was given a 5c increase to \$1.76.

This still wasn't regarded as satisfactory, and another grievance was filed. As a result, Girard was increased to \$1.82 this month.

The steward who handled the case was Martha Montayne.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

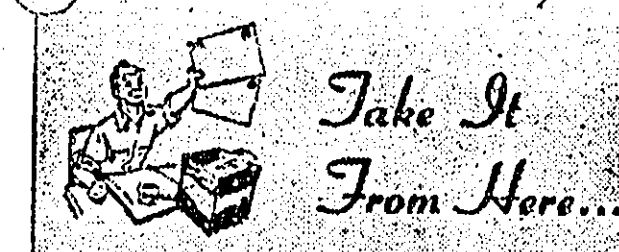
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 10 — No. 33

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, August 22, 1952



UE Says GE Wage Offer Fails to Meet Needs, Rejects Proposals on Strikes, Seniority

General Electric management has been told that its wage offer does not meet the needs of UE members and that several other of its proposals were totally unacceptable to the union, during the course of negotiations in New York this past week.

Two Win Rate Beef Cases in Bldg. 49

Two Building 49 workers have received increases of 5c and 5½c an hour as a result of recent grievance victories won by UE Local 301. The cases were won on behalf of Henry W. Layton and Orton Davis.

In the case of Layton, an engine lathe operator, the union had demanded that he be increased to the job rate on the basis of his past experience and his work in gas turbine beginning last Dec. 17. Management had started him way under the two steps below job rate requirement of the contract, and up to the time of the filing of the grievance, had boosted him only to \$1.71 an hour, still 11½c below the job rate.

As a result of the grievance procedures, the company agreed to give Layton a 5c increase, which although an improvement is still below the demanded rate.

In the case of Davis, supervision had also failed to bring him up to the full job rate for his B inspection classification. A previous grievance had raised Davis to the \$1.82 level, and the successful outcome of this case gave him an additional 5½c.

First Groups OK Dues Raise Move

First reactions in the Schenectady works to the UE Local 301 proposals to increase monthly membership dues to \$2.50 were favorable according to reports made by shop stewards and executive board members. The stewards are circulating a petition to authorize the hike.

The dues increase is regarded as necessary by the union leadership because of the urgency of building a defense fund and providing money for the construction of a new union hall. Present \$2 monthly dues leave a surplus of only 7c per member, far under the amount needed.

Fort Wayne—A meeting called during working hours and other action indicating that UE Local 910 was sick of management stalling in negotiations, brought the Magnavox Co. to agree to an 11c hourly wage increase for its 2,000 production employees. All but 4c of the raise was retroactive to June 1. The 4c will be added to paychecks next Jan. 1. In addition the company agreed to finance completely a family insurance plan covering life, hospitalization, medical care and special payments in case of polio. UE also won 3c to 5c increases for many workers to straighten out inequities.

Akron—A national walkout of 30,000 Goodrich Co. workers began this week after the management failed to agree on a contract with the CIO rubber workers patterned after those signed in recent days with U. S. Rubber, General Tire and Rubber and Seiberling Rubber. These pacts called for a 10c hourly wage boost plus a number of fringe benefits. Negotiations are still in progress with another major rubber manufacturer, Firestone.

New York—More than 500 employees of the Federal Manufacturing and Engineering Corp. continued their strike this week. The walkout was called by UE local 430 after two months of fruitless negotiations. The union is demanding a 15c wage increase and numerous other contract improvements.

Pittsburgh—The CIO steelworkers announced this week a new contract with the Continental Can Co. with a 12½c hourly wage increase retroactive to April 16, 1953. The pact will run until October, 1953. The steelworkers' union also settled two strikes hanging over from a nationwide steel tieup. The settlements were for workers employed by the Allegheny Ludlum and Acme Steel companies.

Sheboygan, Wis. — UE Local 160F sent a message to Attorney General McGranery protesting against arbitrary deportations of foreign-born residents of this country under the McCarran Act.

The company pay offer would add an estimated 8c to 13c an hour to the paychecks of most GE workers in the union's bargaining unit. UE has demanded a straight 15c boost plus special increases for day workers, skilled workers and women, none of which are even touched on in the management proposal.

The company proposal to insert a contract clause permitting disciplinary action against persons participating in so-called unauthorized stoppages in GE plants was rejected flatly by the union negotiators. They asserted that this would give management the opportunity to discharge active unionists on the pretext that they were leaders of these stoppages.

The week's negotiations also saw a number of union proposals on the bargaining table. The demand for the union shop was presented with management expressing strong opposition. UE Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau, a member of the national negotiating committee asserted that if management was sincere in its expressed desire to live with the union, then it could have no real objections to a union shop agreement. Such objections could

only stem from a management hope of someday getting rid of the union, Jandreau observed.

Another objectionable proposal of the management was to make local seniority supplements superior in effect to the national agreement. UE representatives declared that this would enable management to open a war on seniority agreements on a local basis.

Aid to Cable Strikers Rises to Almost \$1,000

UE Local 301's contributions in support of the General Cable strikers in Rome mounted to close to \$1,000 this week as shop collections continued throughout the plant.

Included in the total aid to the UE Local 331 members, who were forced to strike on June 1, was approximately \$750 collected in the shop up to the beginning of the week. This did not take in the large sums of money being gathered in Control and other divisions which just returned this week after a vacation shutdown.

In addition to the collection money the Schenectady local has sent \$200 in two contributions made by the executive board to back the strike.

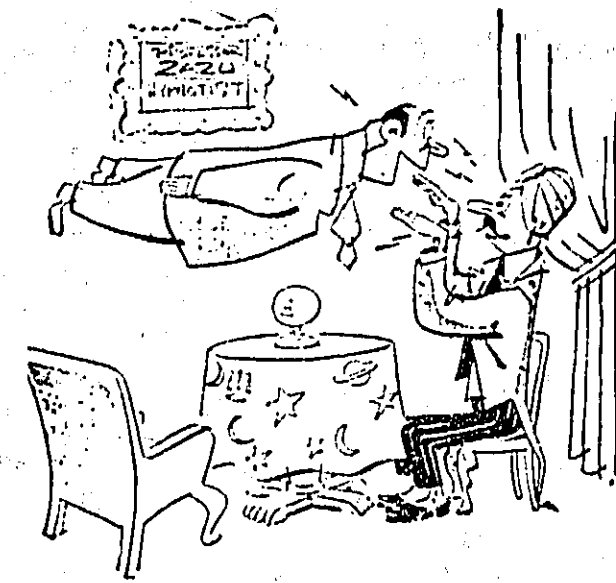


WELCOME SUPPORT. General Cable strikers in Rome welcome the large quantities of food collected by friends in Buffalo and in New York City to help see them through their long walkout. The strike of UE local 331 began on June 1.

Today Is Fifth T-H Birthday

Today is the fifth anniversary of the passage of the Taft-Hartley slave labor law.

For big cooperations throughout the country it is a day of rejoicing. For union members it is a day of mourning for the death of the New Deal labor policy which enabled



You're just the man I need to explain the benefits of the Taft-Hartley law to my employees...

T-H Issue

Next week, the EU News will publish a special issue devoted to the fifth anniversary of Taft-Hartley and to Labor Day. Included will be many special articles on the effects of T-H throughout the labor movement.

workers throughout the land to organize, and also a day of determination to renew the fight against the law.

Taft-Hartley was strictly the product of National Association of Manufacturers' lobbyists. They wrote the bill as a union-busting measure, one designed to split the labor movement, restore the hated union-busting injunctions and provide the employers with a huge arsenal of weapons to be used against their workers.

To a great extent it has been successful. The split in the CIO was brought about by leaders who were willing to talk about Taft-

Hartley repeal, but at the same time succumbed to Taft-Hartley reasoning.

However, in a larger sense T-H failed. This failure is underlined by the continued fight against it, and by the growing strength of militant unions, like UE, which the bill sought to destroy.

UMW in Memorial

More than 475,000 coal miners will begin a 10-day work stoppage tomorrow as a memorial to persons killed and maimed in mine accidents during the past year.

The memorial period was arranged by the United Mine Workers so that only five working days are lost, the other five days falling on two weekends, including Labor Day. The work break gives mine safety inspectors a chance to check mine conditions in an effort to prevent more casualties in the coming year.

Campbell's '51 Vote Record 100% in Opposition to Labor

The support offered by both major parties to the candidacy of State Senator Thomas Campbell, who is seeking reelection in this area, constitutes a slap in the face to all of organized labor. This is the only conclusion that can be drawn from a study of Campbell's record on issues of vital interest to union members.

On a number of such issues which came before the Senate during its 1951 session, Campbell's votes were 100% in opposition to the stands taken by CIO, AFL and independent unions. His vote for the Hughes-Brees law, which sharply curtails unemployment insurance benefits, is well known to UE Local 301 members because it represented a complete reneging on specific promises made to a delegation from this union. However, other equally important votes received less publicity.

For example, Campbell was a supporter of the bill raising the sales tax in New York City. While this measure did not directly affect the people in his district, it did give a strong indication of what Campbell's attitude is likely to be on the proposed Schenectady sales tax.

Two other votes place Campbell squarely in the ranks of the worst opponents of civil liberties in New

York. He voted for both the so-called Dewey "dictatorship" bill, which grants the Governor almost unlimited power to act without controls from the people, and a "purge" measure which allows civil servants to be fired arbitrarily without even recourse to the courts.

Amsterdam Workers Victors in Long Strike

The 16-week-old carpet workers strike in Amsterdam ground to a close this week with the CIO textile workers able to claim a substantial victory.

Agreements were signed with both the Mohawk and Bigelow-Sanford Companies covering about 8,000 workers. Included in the agreement was a 10c hourly wage raise. But perhaps the most important feature of the agreement was that the companies withdrew their demands which were intended to destroy union conditions. Similar demands have been made by big companies against unions throughout the country.

This will result in an unfair loss of earnings for this worker. The union doesn't believe he should be penalized in this way and demands payment of average earnings during installation.

Alpport: Edward P. Marx was hired as a aircraft mechanic about 18 months ago. He was hired at two steps below the job rate and since then has been increased only one step. In accordance with contract article VI-4-(a)-3, he should have had the job rate six months after the date of hiring. The union demands he be given the job rate retroactively.

Thomas Stillman was hired on Aug. 22 of last year as a C Aircraft Mechanic at five steps below the job rate. According to the contract he should have been hired at two steps below the job rate and been given the job rate within six months. The union demands the job rate and the proper retroactive adjustment.

Campbell Ave., Salvatore Castiglia was transferred from Building 53 Control to CAP A&O in December of last year. He was classified as a jig bore operator with a 1.83 job rate while waiting for the machine to be installed. After short period he was reclassified bench assembly with a 1.875 job rate. Then, four months later, he was again reclassified to miscellaneous machine operator with a 1.76 job rate. The union objects to this type of downgrading and demands that Castiglia be returning to his bench assembly classification with a retroactive award to make up his lost earnings.

Paul Landolfo has been notified that a stripeover is to be installed on the shears he operates. During the period of installation, supervision has said that Landolfo will be paid on a FWDW basis.

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.

plant and the one with the closest tolerances.

Bldg. 60: Foreman K. Cochrane has issued warning notices to Charles Schoolcraft and Warren Jenkins after claiming that they had shown poor workmanship on the coils. Examination of the coils by day shift men revealed absolutely no damage and the foreman was unable to back up his charges against the two workers when asked to do so. The union believes that he is discriminating against these two workers in order to cover up for another man who lacked experience on raised heating jumps. Therefore, it demands that these improper warning notices be rescinded.

T. Angilli informed his foreman that he had a legal appointment in Amsterdam at 1 p.m. on July 3. The foreman marked his

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PROUD PARENTS. Ida and Joseph Di Cocco sit at home beside pictures of two of their children. Di Cocco is a former GE worker who is now living on a weekly compensation pension won for him by UE Local 301 after a shop accident in 1948. (Story on page 4).

Local 301 to Participate In Czaban Night Tribute

UE Local 301 will participate in a special night of tribute to the 17-year-old son of one of its members. The tribute will be rendered in the form of a benefit baseball game at Schenectady Stadium.

Bldg. 66 Man Killed In Plant

The second fatal accident in the Welded Products division during the past 24 months claimed the life of 42-year-old Irving Ballentine Wednesday afternoon.

Ballentine, a gas burner in Building 66, was working under a 2½-ton end shield mounted on iron horses. The shield slid from the horses and crushed Ballentine against the iron floor. He was rushed to St. Clare's hospital but died shortly after admittance.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ballentine of Watervliet.

The tragedy struck not many hours after UE Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau had brought the question of unsafe conditions in Welded Products before top GE management in New York City.

During a discussion of improving working conditions, one of the union's demands in contract modification negotiations, Jandreau cited the lack of safety precautions in the division, and recalled the death of William Rhea in Building 66 in 1950 to underscore the urgent need for improvements.

Labor Support Pays

Labor-indorsed candidates made almost a clean sweep at the expense of their rivals in the Michigan primary in races for federal and state nominations.

UE Strike Looms as Harvester Tries to Scuttle Union Pact

A strike of 30,000 UE members in the International Harvester chain loomed as a probability Wednesday after company attempts to jam down CIO United Autoworkers contract which would mean huge wage cuts for everybody.

In all, Harvester proposed an almost unbelievable total of 250 changes in the present UE contract. The union on the other hand was asking for a 15c general wage increase, an additional paid holiday, elimination of the southern differential and other improvements closely following the demands being made on GE by UE.

The company proposals call for establishing ceilings for piece workers of from 5c to 8c above base rate. This actually would mean a 50c to 80c hourly loss of earnings for most piece workers.

Day workers would be cut almost as drastically if the Harvester bosses had their way. The union studied the changes in this respect and found that day workers' earnings would tumble from 10c to 60c an hour, under the Harvester proposal.

Added to this was a company demand to curtail seniority rights sharply, under a clause which is so bad that CIO members in the company's Melrose Park (Chicago) plant are now on strike against its provisions.

Another management demand would cripple the UE grievance machinery.

Faced with this list of impossible demands which could only mean the end of unionism in the farm equipment field if accepted, the membership held a strike vote. The count had not been made at the time the EU News went to press, but it seemed certain that sentiment would overwhelmingly favor a walkout. Union leaders in the Harvester chain predicted that the plants would be shut down by the end of this week.

The UE-organized plants in the

date of the ball game has been tentatively set for Sept. 21. A meeting to make plans for the event was held at American Legion Hall on Wednesday, with local Vice President Roy Schaffer attending. A number of other civic organizations, including the Legion, also participated.

Seek Organization of Bus Workers

A major attempt is being made to organize Schenectady's bus drivers and other public transit workers. The organizational drive is being conducted by Local 159 of the CIO transport workers.

The majority of the transit employees have been without union protection since the Schenectady Railway Co. went out of business early this year. Since then, a number of private companies have taken over some of the bus lines, generally operating on sharply curtailed schedules. Only one of these companies has any sort of union representing its employees.

According to transport union spokesmen, equality of pay and full union conditions will be sought in all of the operating lines. They said that among the first jobs for the union would be the finding of jobs for approximately 40 former employees of Schenectady Railway who are still out of work. Most of these workers fall in the upper age brackets.

Harvester chain have clearly demonstrated their unity in the past two years when they repulsed approximately 20 raids without a single defeat. Undoubtedly, it was the failure to break the union through raiding and splitting tactics that prompted Harvester management to come up with their fantastic list of demands in an effort to break the union through destroying its contract conditions.

Report Foreman Hits Worker in Building 52

A foreman in Building 52 engaged in an unprovoked attack on one of the workers under his supervision, according to reports reaching the union.

The attack took place on Tuesday morning, with the victim being 61-year-old Horatio Decker, a stock-keeper. Decker is said to have been punched by Foreman William Keller after he suggested to Keller that a replacement would be necessary if he (Decker) was to leave his stockroom in order to tag materials for inventory.

This was the second incident of a foreman attacking a worker in the Schenectady Works in recent weeks. The union immediately instituted an investigation, bringing the case to the attention of top supervision in Building 41. At the time this edition went to press, the investigation was underway.

Throw Out IUE Vote Bid at Ft. Edward

An IUE-CIO petition for an election at the Fort Edward and Hudson Falls GE plant was thrown out last week by the National Labor Relations Board in New York.

The NLRB action followed similar decisions by regional boards throughout the country. The boards upheld the UE position that the existing UE-GE contract barred a vote at this time.

IUE has little strength in any of the UE shops for which they petitioned. However, the CIO leadership hoped to disrupt UE-GE contract modification negotiations by staging a series of nuisance elections.

This IUE move created deep resentment among GE workers, and this resentment undoubtedly influenced the NLRB in making its decision.



JOSEPH DI COCCO

Set List of Top Field Day Prizes

With the sale of Field Day tickets opening in the shop within the next few days, the UE Local 301 activities committee has released the list of the first 10 of the 25 valuable prizes being offered to holders of lucky admission tabs to the Sept. 28 event.

Topping the list is an eight cubic foot GE refrigerator and deep freeze unit combination which is obtainable with the employees' discount at \$379. Second prize will be an automatic washing machine priced at \$280. A \$175 electric cylinder iron is the third prize. The next seven awards in order are:

A 17 inch table model TV set (\$162), a circular vacuum (\$67), a portable radio (\$46), a floor air conditioner (\$44), a double electric blanket (\$40), a clock radio (\$36) and five gallons of top quality outside white paint (\$29).

The tickets for the Field Day are to be sold at three for 50c, with each one serving as an admission to Columbian Park where the big day is to be staged. Many events including a Little League ball game and sports events in which everyone will be able to participate are scheduled.

As an added attraction, a fully equipped \$100 bicycle will be given away as a door prize.

UE Contract Signed in Buffalo is WSB-Proof

A clause which insures the workers against any Wage Stabilization Board attempt to rob them of collective bargaining gains has been written into a contract just negotiated by UE Local 326 in Buffalo. It is believed to be one of the first such protections in union-management pacts.

The contract in which the WSB-proof clause is included was signed last week in order to avert a threatened strike of 350 production and maintenance workers at the Bullovak Equipment plant of the Blaw-Knox Co. The agreement includes a package increase evaluated by the union at about 10c. The pact also provides improvements in almost every section of the old agreement.

But the really unique feature is a provision that if the WSB denies either the wage increase or other improved benefits, then other benefits of equivalent value are to be added on to the present accord. The union retains the right to strike if no agreement is reached on these improvements.

A clause of this type was set down by the District Three council, which groups together UE locals throughout upstate New York, as one of its bargaining aims recently.

Hurt in GE Works, Joseph Di Cocco Will Receive Compensation for Life

It is four years since Joseph Di Cocco has been able to work for a living. In August, 1948, Di Cocco injured his back while in Building 72 carpentry shop. However, during this period, which included frequent stays in the hospital, most of Di Cocco's basic needs have been taken care of under the workmen's compensation law. And in order to assure the injured worker that he would receive his full rights under the law, his union, UE Local 301, has provided him with free legal service continually. This service was rendered by Leon Novak, the attorney employed full time by the union in order to handle compensation work.

Di Cocco is not receiving the compensation payments, which just recently were established at \$30.17 for the rest of his life, as a matter of charity. Rather he is being paid the money in recognition that a man who works hard all of his life should not have to face privation if he is unfortunate enough to suffer a disabling accident.

And Di Cocco is a man with a long record of hard work, most of it for General Electric. He first came to this country from his native Italy in 1911, but three years later he returned to Europe to serve in the Italian Army fighting on the side of the World War I Allies.

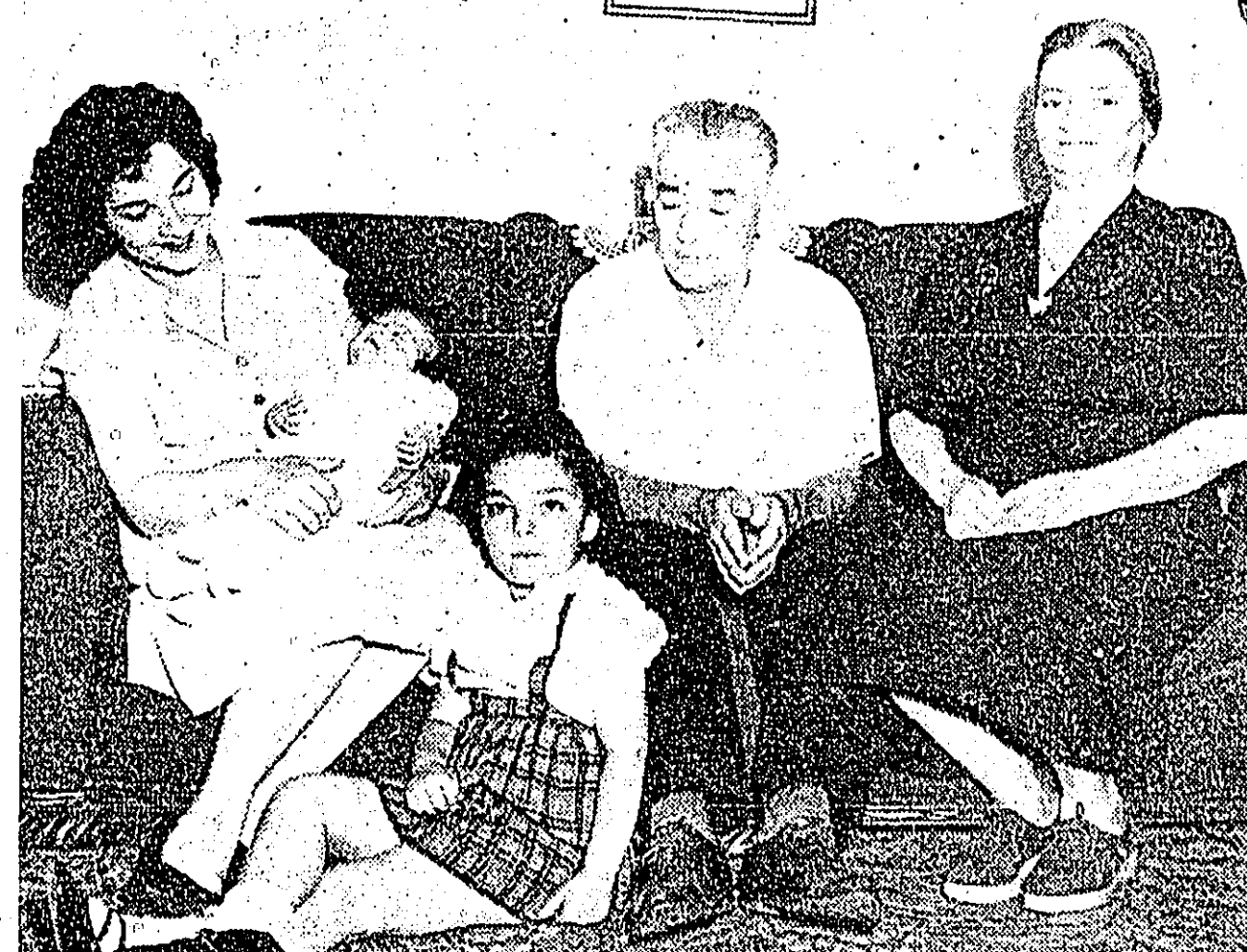
He made a second trip to the U. S. in 1921, only to be forced to go back once again on account of illness in Italy of his wife, Ida. However, he was back again in 1923, this time for good. It was in 1925 that he went to work at the Schenectady works of GE.

Di Cocco, now 57, is the father of four children, two daughters, Gay and Josephine, and two sons, Tony and Angelo. But it is Gay's two little daughters, four-year-old Barbara and one-month-old Catherine that occupy most of the attention of their grandparents. The children fortunately live just across the way from the Di Cocco's

Front Street flat. However, one member of the Di Cocco family is not so close at hand. 21-year-old Angelo, following in the footsteps of big brother Tony, a World War II Navy veteran, is now stationed at the Bainbridge Naval Training Station in Maryland.

Tony is back at home now, of course, and working in Building 69 at GE. Another GE worker is the youngest of the Di Cocco children, 20-year-old Josephine. Both Gay and Angelo have also been on the company payroll.

However, one of the things that Joseph and Ida Di Cocco are happiest about is that with the measure of security won largely through the efforts of their union, they will not have to be a burden on the children they are so proud of.



THREE GENERATIONS



THE DI COCCO AT HOME WITH DAUGHTER GAY HOLDING HER ONE-MONTH-OLD BABY CATHERINE, WHO "BIG SISTER" BARBARA SITS AT THE FEET OF GRANDPA JOSEPH DI COCCO, WHO IS RECEIVING A WEEKLY COMPENSATION CHECK AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF UE LOCAL 301. MRS. IDA DI COCCO PROUDLY POSES WITH HER FAMILY. AT THE LEFT DI COCCO SHOWS HIS WIFE ONE OF THE CHECKS.

Front Street flat.

Seek Clear Definitions Of A and B Duties

Investigation of the speedup situation in Building 77, which brought about the meeting several weeks ago between the UE Local 301 executive board and Works Manager Lewis Male, continued this week.

Particular emphasis was placed on an attempt to obtain from supervision a clear-cut differentiation between A and B classification work. Attempts by foremen to force people with B classifications to do A work have been a frequent cause of grievances throughout the shop.

In general, the union is seeking a tightening of job definitions in line with its announced policy of enforcing the contract.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

GE Balks at Real Contract Improvements

Negotiations between UE and General Electric management continued this week with the company giving no indication that it is willing to make any major concessions on the union's 35 basic proposals.

The bulk of the bargaining time on Monday and Tuesday was given over to the presentation and review of the UE demands. These demands are for a 15c hourly general wage increase, special increases for skilled workers, women and day workers, an additional paid holiday and removal of the strings from the holiday clauses, improved vacations, better working conditions, increased pensions and many other things badly needed by GE workers.

Instead the company has made a wage offer which would provide hourly increases of 8c to 13c, but which would make no concessions on eliminating wage discrimination against women, improving the lot of skilled workers or that of day workers. This offer has been tied to a clause which would in effect give the company the right to fire active unionists who participate in so-called "unauthorized" walkouts. The

UE has flatly rejected this proposal.

However, an alarming note crept into the talks with the publication of an IUE-CIO advertisement in many newspapers. This ad indicated that the Carey group was willing to accept the company wage offer and sell out on almost everything except if GE would throw in a "profit-sharing" scheme and a cost-of-living escalator.

This "profit-sharing" system was tossed out by GE workers many years ago because they found that it cost them thousands of dollars in wage increases. The company has admitted recently that the workers are much better off without the bonus setup than they would have been had it continued in operation.

As for the cost-of-living escalator, this is the gimmick that has enabled the automobile companies to cut wages of auto workers in spite of increasing living costs.

What was most disturbing was that IUE chose a time when both unions were in important negotiations to attack UE.

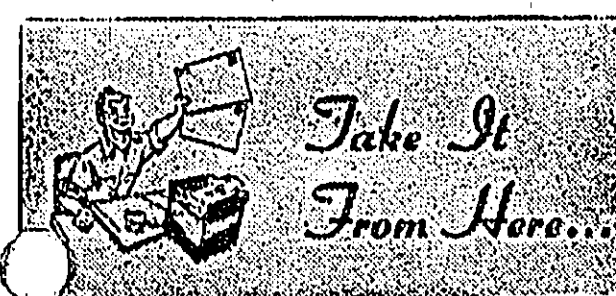
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THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

Vol. 10 — No. 34

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, August 29, 1952



Newark, N. J.—It was UE 50 to 1 at the Carlisle Manufacturing Co. shop. That was the count in an NLRB election in which the workers voted to join UE Local 437. They were formerly represented by the CIO steelworkers.

Rensselaer, N. Y. — More than 500 workers at the General Aniline Co. plant went out on strike after the company refused to give them the cost of living increase demanded by the AFL chemical workers. The plant was once a part of the huge German chemical cartel, I. G. Farben, and is now controlled by the U. S. Government. Congressman Leo O'Brien (Dem) wired President Truman asking that the chief executive act to force management to bargain in good faith.

Binghamton, N. Y.—UE has won an 8c to 13c increase and a number of other contract improvements, including the ending of all special women's rates, for workers at the Airbanks Valve Co.

Canton, O.—A 30-day strike by the CIO steelworkers against the Timken Roller Bearing Co. plants in Canton, Columbus and Zanesville (all Ohio) has ended with the workers winning a 10% wage boost.

Labor-Day, 1952, Marks Five Years Of Taft-Hartley Law's Strait-Jacket

The Taft-Hartley act passed the 5-year mark Aug. 22, 1952. The National Association of Manufacturers and U. S. Chamber of Commerce staged no public birthday festivities for their bulldozer offspring, thrust onto the American scene in 1947 by the 80th Congress with the aid of expensive lobbyists skilled in the art of backroom deals.

But if there were no great public celebrations, the rejoicing in private was genuine and enthusiastic. Five-year-old junior had more than repaid the lavish millions spent by big business to

bring T-H into existence over the corpse of the Wagner act.

Organized labor, looking back on life with Taft-Hartley, could not begin to assess the cost in terms of dollars. One union alone, the International Typographical Union

(AFL), estimated it had spent over \$20-million in defending itself from T-H attacks. The AFL Building & Construction Trades Dept., representing three million workers, warned in October 1951 that the law was "operating to drive our unions into bankruptcy." Its member unions at that point had spent

SPECIAL EDITION

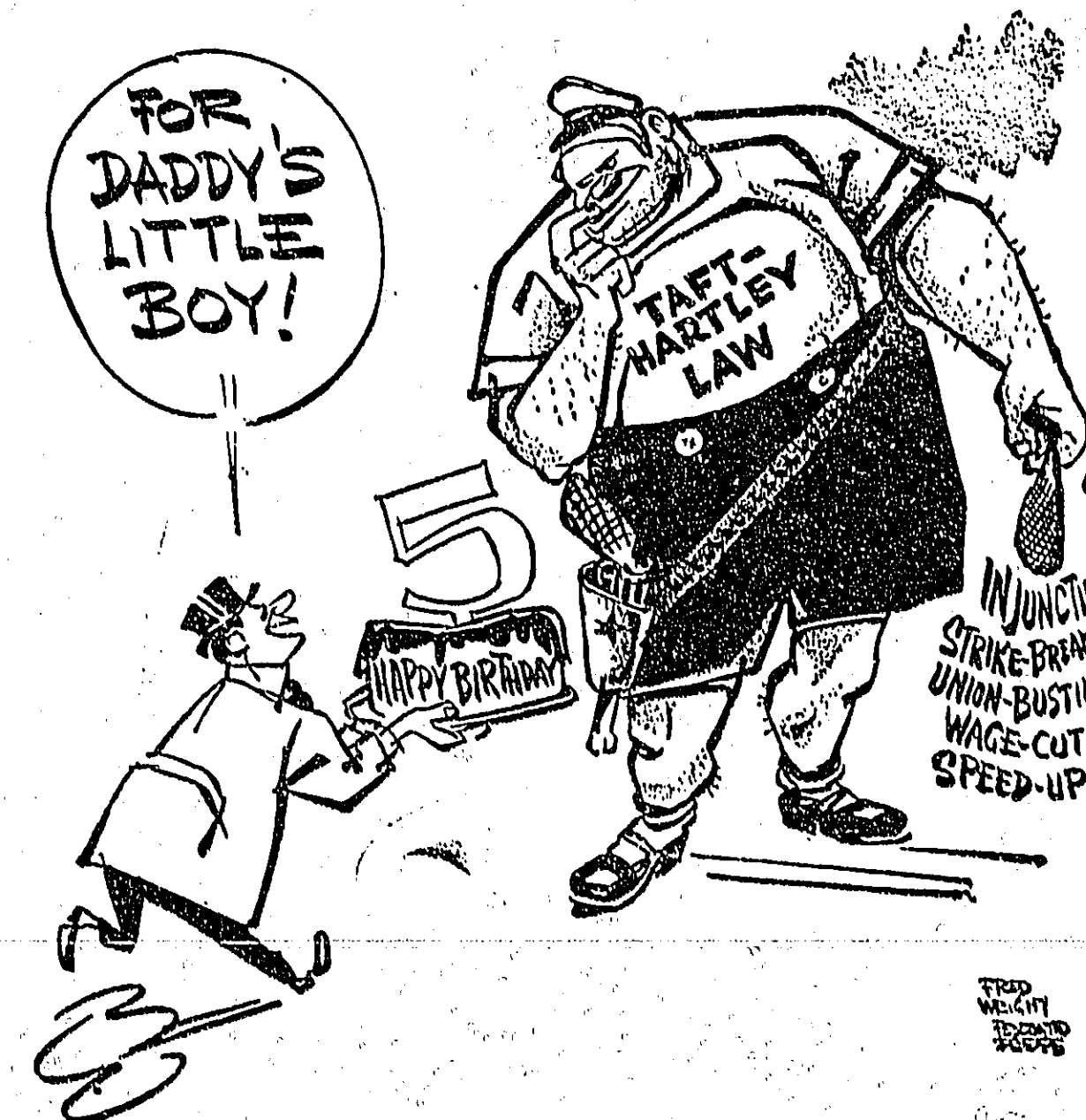
This week, the EU News is publishing a special issue designed to review the five years since the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. Many of the regular stories and features are omitted to make room for articles on T-H and on Labor Day.

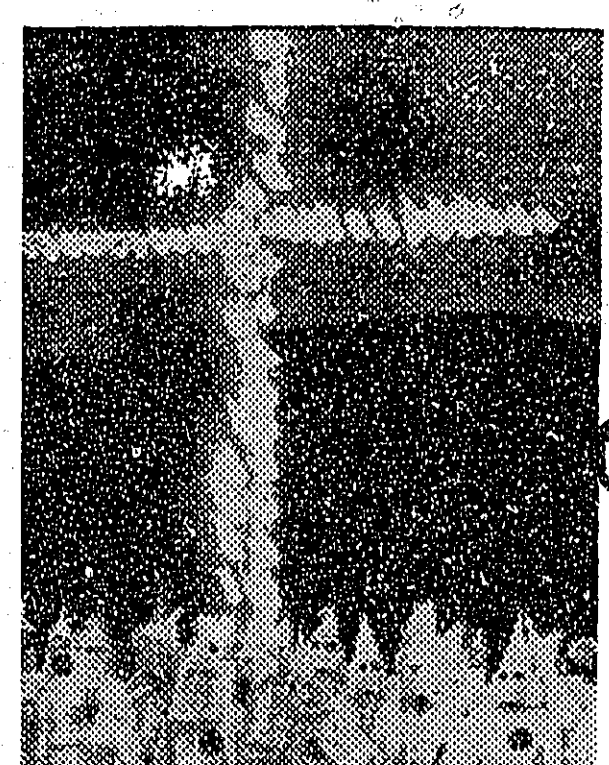
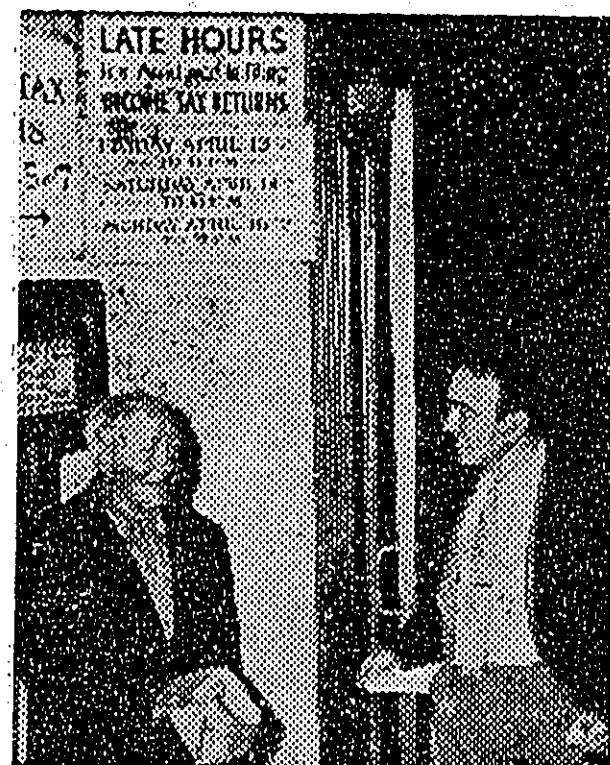
over \$2 million just on NLRB cases.

Taft-Hartley contempt of court fines had cost the United Mine Workers nearly \$1½-million and the U. S. Supreme Court had upheld a whopping \$750,000 employer damage suit against the Intl. Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union. Scores of other unions, on a local and national scale, were embroiled in damage suits totalling hundreds of millions of dollars.

The cost figure would become even more astronomical if it included the millions lost

(Continued on Page 2)





LABOR'S YEAR IN PICTURES—Left to right: (1) The wage freeze kept pay down, but rising prices and higher taxes emptied workers' pockets. (2) Led by heroic wives of strikers, who battled scabs, a 15-month strike at New Jersey Zinc Co. in New Mexico was won by the International Union of Mine Mill & Smelter Workers. (3) Ring-around-a-scab go striking Philadelphia CIO phone workers who were among thousands of white collar workers striking for higher pay during the year. (4) The terrorist Ku Klux Klan made a strong comeback as Negro leader Harry T. Moore and his wife were murdered in Florida.



MORE PICTURE HIGHLIGHTS—(5) Women weep for 119 miners killed in explosion at West Frankfort, Ill., pit. Tragedy led to enactment of new federal mine safety law. (6) Like thousands of other consumer goods workers, this autoworker was unemployed during year. (7) Farce of federal seizure of railroads was shown when this New York Central executive doffed his army coat after lengthy rail case finally was settled. (8) Pay raises and modified union shop ended 54-day steel strike, winding up nation's most serious labor crisis.

Five Long Years of T-H Peter McGuire and the Labor Day Story

(Continued from Page 1)

by working men and women in wage gains. The basic aim of unions is to better the economic conditions of their members. Unions fighting to hold their own, unions hit by injunctions, damage suits, legal sniping and raiding find it more difficult to win higher wages and expand their strength.

Union membership in 1952 stood at 14½ million, exactly where it was the year Taft-Hartley was enacted. Reporting on organized labor's lack of growth and the failure of major organizing drives in the South, U. S. News & World Report, leading business weekly, asked hopefully on June 6, "Are unions slipping?" It went on to predict that the greatest Taft-Hartley benefits for employers were still to be reaped.

Like the industry prophets, labor leaders recognized the complete impact of Taft-Hartley had not yet been felt by organized labor, bitter as the past five years had been. They saw in the law a delayed time bomb, set to explode with full force when the nation's glittering prosperity, already fading around the edges, disappeared. Business Week astutely pointed out that a pool of "a few million unemployed" would create conditions in which employers could use Taft-Hartley to "wreck the labor movement."

On Labor Day, 1952, as steeply rising prices and dwindling consumer buying power were producing alarmed warnings from labor economists of an impending recession, the issue of repeal of the Taft-Hartley act was gaining in importance.

Labor Day, 1952, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Peter J. McGuire, the New York-born carpenter who successfully campaigned for a day of tribute to working people. Born of Irish parents in New York city July 6, 1852, McGuire went to work while still

as one of the organizers of the American Federation of Labor and was elected secretary of the AFL's founding convention in 1886.

McGuire conceived the idea of Labor Day in 1882. He introduced a resolution in a New York Central Labor Union meeting recommending that "a day should be set aside as a festive day (for) a parade through the streets of the city."

His proposal was enthusiastically received and the central labor

body set Sept. 5, 1882, as the date for its first parade. The employers didn't share in labor's enthusiasm. Many workers were bluntly warned they would be fired if they joined in the march. The daily papers printed disapproving editorials. But the parade was an outstanding success.

Prominently displayed on the banners carried by the paraders were demands for the 8-hour day and higher wages. The New York Herald commented acridly the next morning that the "turnout appears to have been intended as an expression of supreme dissatisfaction."

The carpenters' editorial foe, the American Architect & Building News, wrote: "Labor Day, . . . the very name of which should make every true American blush, ought to be abolished." Instead, it said, there should be "a procession of scabs (which) would contain the best, the most independent and ambitious part of workmen."

Peter McGuire's idea quickly caught on. By 1894, the first Monday in September became a national holiday, celebrated not only by labor but by all sections of the population.

However, despite the activities of people like Carey, militant unions were not destroyed. UE won dozens of elections under the most unfavorable conditions, and after the first attacks, not only held its own but began to gain ground.

As a result, the splitters started to look around for new weapons with which to attack democratic unions. One of these weapons is the Humphrey committee which seeks to give a liberal front to the same old union-busting techniques.

Taft-Hartley Paved Way For Work of Splitters

One of the main offsprings of the Taft-Hartley act was the splitting of unions by a few labor "leaders" who were more interested in playing politics than in fighting for their membership.

It was the destruction of the old National Labor Relations Board and the creation of a Taft-Hartley board which made it possible for men like Jim Carey to disrupt unions. Carey needed all the help the new anti-union board could give him to get the IUE-CIO started. In many places, this board rigged bargaining units and arranged elections so that the Carey forces could win victories, which under a democratic election procedure could never have been theirs.

And it was the Taft-Hartley law which established a pattern of red-baiting hysteria in the labor movement, a pattern which the splitters used to confuse thousands of work-

ers. All the time that these disrupters were using the law for all it was worth, they were paying lip service to the fight for its repeal. They knew that they had to do this in order to maintain any support from working people.

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Southern Judges Injunction-Happy

LOUISVILLE — Kentucky labor leaders believe one of the worse results of the Taft-Hartley act has been the general anti-labor atmosphere it has created in America in the past five years.

As an example, some of them point to the growing number of injunctions against picketing and other union activities issued by the Kentucky courts. Evidently, the local judges considered passage of the federal law the go-ahead signal for an all-out attack on labor and injunctions are issued in routine fashion.

Publicity Director James Wright of UE Local 236F, said Taft-Hartley has taken away one of the greatest weapons the union has — mass picketing. "In the past years in Kentucky," he said, "it has been almost impossible for a union to go on strike without an injunction being immediately issued against them to limit picketing."

Sec.-Treas. Fred Foss of the Kentucky CIO Council said: "The use of the injunction in cases of strikes has become a practice in Kentucky to limit picketing."

He was particularly bitter about Sec. 8 in T-H, which includes the strike notice and cooling-off provisions. "Under this section," he said, "workers who strike have been refused reemployment by the company. Also, under Sec. 7, we have had union representatives arrested and brought into court on charges of committing violence who were at least 200 miles away from the scene of the strike at the time."

Taft-Hartley Just a Return To Old Days Before New Deal

When the Taft-Hartley law was first proposed, its big business sponsors spent tens of millions of dollars in an effort to convince the American people that here was something new in the field of labor legislation.

But the record showed that on the contrary, this was something very old—just another version of the many union-busting laws which were so common in the days before Franklin D. Roosevelt. In the 1920's and even before, Congress enacted dozens of laws which were designed to curb any strength of organized labor. These laws provided injunctions against picketing, strike-breaking techniques and generally treated unions as if they were illegal conspiracies.

But two New Deal laws did away with all of that. One law was

passed even before Roosevelt came into office. It was the Norris-LaGuardia Act, sponsored by the great liberal Republican Senator from Nebraska, the late George Norris, and the then GOP congressman from New York, Fiorello H. LaGuardia. This measure did away with the hated injunctions which the employers and their controlled courts had used so often in order to break strikes.

Then in 1935 came the "great charter" of organized labor, the Wagner Act, written by the late Senator from New York, Robert F. Wagner. This act established the right to join unions free from intimidation. It paved the way for the formation of CIO and the organization of millions of workers in the great mass industries of the U. S.

It was the Taft-Hartley law, devised by the National Association of Manufacturers, which destroyed the Wagner Act and set off a huge campaign designed to destroy the labor movement. That's why honest opponents of T-H recognize that the only way to repeal it, is by reenacting the Wagner Act in its entirety.

Publish T-H Issue

The current issue of the union magazine, March of Labor, is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of the five year history of Taft-Hartley. It contains many special features telling of the unions' fight against the slave labor law, outlining the effects of the act, and presenting a program for its repeal.

March of Labor is a monthly magazine. Subscriptions at the rate of \$2 a year can be obtained from the magazine's offices, 166 West Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

Chicago's Unions Feel Taft-Hartley Screws

CHICAGO—The 100-year-old Chicago Typographical Union No. 16 was the first to learn the full danger of the Taft-Hartley act. That was five years ago, when the printers opened their bitter 22-month strike against the six Chicago daily newspapers. "Today all of Am-

Prices Rise Again

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Cost of Living index rose to another new high last week. The new mark was 190.8, a rise of 1.2 points in the last month.

Food costs led the advance with rents also mounting. The BLS index actually shows the cost of living as much lower than it really is according to labor economists.

Wages remain frozen.

Thanks to the FP

We are indebted to the Federated Press, the labor news service which contributed many of the features which appear this week. FP is also the source of many of the stories on the world of labor which appear in the EU News throughout the year.

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