

Committee Named On Unemployment

A 301 committee on unemployment was appointed Monday by the Executive Board to meet a need which is increasing as lay-offs become more widespread.

The Board named to the committee President Frank Kriss, Board Members Stanley Bishop, Henry Kaminski and William Mastrian, and an unemployed, 301 member, Robert Northrop. Northrop was the 301 representative recently in the UE delegation of unemployed sent to Washington to press for action on unemployment and for extending "52-20" benefits for World War II veterans. The 52-20 unemployment benefits expire July 25 unless Congress takes action.

Board Members voted unanimous approval of Northrop's report on the Washington trip and on recommendations he made, as a result of the discussions in Washington, for a 301 unemployment program.

The recommendations were:

To take steps to organize the unemployed members of 301 and see that they remain active members of the union. To set up a service bureau within the union for jobless persons, to help with problems of unemployment insurance, relief, eviction, etc.

To enlist the support of unemployed workers for the 35 hour week for 40 hours pay and for the entire \$600 package demanded by UE as one of the best ways to fight unemployment.

To urge unemployed workers to make mass demands on city, state and national governments to take responsibility for providing jobs and economic security.

The Board voted that Northrop make his report to the membership and stewards meeting July 19 and 20. The appointment of the committee will be submitted to the meeting for approval also.

Aiding Golfer

Board Member Willard Kuschel and five shop stewards, all of Building 46, are doing their best to see that Shop Steward Mike Baziluk of 46 has a chance to win the National Public Links championship at Los Angeles this month.

Kuschel and Stewards Tom Horne, Arthur Chevalier, Rossiter Lighthall, Robert Lee and William Germaine are collecting contributions in the shop to help finance Mike's trip. The tournament starts July 11.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



Senate Votes To Keep Anti-Strike Injunction

The United States Senate voted Tuesday to keep the anti-strike injunctions of the Taft-Hartley Law. The vote came after what was publicized as a mighty battle between the Taft supporters who wanted injunctions and the so-called "liberals" who wanted government seizure of struck plants instead.

Actually it was a sham fight. The chief difference was that the Taft group came out bluntly for the Taft-Hartley provisions to help Big Business smash unions and the "liberals", like Senator Douglas of Illinois, tried to camouflage their anti-union amendments.

Did You Know?

Actual physical output of factories has dropped 10 per cent in the past six months. Steel production — a key factor — has declined almost 10 per cent in the last three months. Estimates are that the steel industry will be down to 75 per cent of capacity by the end of 1949 — that will mean at least 200,000 jobless steelworkers.

Important to Workers On Vacation Shutdown

Workers in a division which has an annual vacation shutdown are entitled to unemployment insurance credits under the law if they are not paid for the entire shutdown.

For example, if a worker has only one year's service at the time of shutdown, he will be paid only for one week's vacation. He therefore is on lay-off for the second week and should register promptly for unemployment insurance at the start of the second week.

There is a report that the State Division of Unemployment Insurance is planning to make a "ruling" that workers are not entitled to unemployment insurance under these circumstances. It is the position of the union that the State Division has no authority to make such a ruling.

Any worker who is refused the right to register after the paid part of the vacation shutdown, should report this promptly to the union office, so the matter can be fought out.

301 Board Asks Action On Callahan and Kelley

The 301 Executive Board has protested against recent activities of John Callahan, union business agent at the Pittsfield GE, and Fred Kelley, business agent at Lynn GE, in damaging contract negotiations.

The Board voted Monday to send a telegram asking the General Executive Board of UE to call together the GE Conference Board of UE Locals to take appropriate action in connection with these activities.

According to Pittsfield papers, Callahan made a slanderous attack on the 1946 strike activities in an address before the Pittsfield Rotary Club.

Kelley has announced his intention of seeking a leave of absence to spend full time visiting UE locals in his campaign for the UE presidency. He would leave his duties at the very time when GE workers need all possible unity and strength to win their contract demands.

Twenty five Board Members voted for the motion to protest the conduct of Kelley and Callahan, and nobody voted against it. Fiorillo abstained from voting and Pacelli, Hodges and Watts were absent. Voting for the motion were Bishop, Brashers, Brauneisen, Cognetta, Davis, Esposito, Flanagan, Friedlander, Kaminski, Kelly, Kuschel, La Bombard, Mangino, Mastriani, Phillips, Quirini, Scott, Sisto, Spears, Stewart, Templeton, Villano, Jandreau, Green and Downs.

301 Members Can Help

The United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, has asked the aid of 301 members in winning the run-off election among Prudential Life Insurance agents July 8, against a raiding AFL union. 301 members can help by urging Prudential agents they know in Schenectady and neighboring counties to vote for UOPWA.

UOPWA has won gains for insurance men while the AFL has won nothing. The new UOPWA contract with the John Hancock Company provided a \$5 a week general increase, an improved pension system, a disability plan and other gains.

Pensioners to Meet

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the union hall.

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GE-UE Will Meet Tuesday; Boulware Busy Meanwhile!

Negotiations with GE will resume next Tuesday, after a two-week recess. But L. R. Boulware, GE's vice-president for employee relations, took advantage of the recess to make it doubly clear that GE has no intention of doing anything to meet the needs of the workers and reverse the trend toward depression.

Boulware took another full page in the last Works News to tell GE workers that the present lay-offs are just part of freedom, and "we'll continue to have our ups and downs."

In the face of official proof that savings and purchasing power of the common people have been dropping dangerously, Boulware calmly states that "95% of the public" has ample income and savings. And as for the rest, Boulware says GE is in favor of "proper and needed public relief." The word "public" is there just so workers being laid off will understand GE recognizes no responsibility to them, and wants them to go on the relief rolls.

American workers, according to Boulware, are just doing what they want. He omits the fact that increasing millions cannot do what they most want, namely work at steady jobs.

No Mention of Profits
To them, Boulware gives the advice that "we just calmly recognize that we are undergoing a correction of our own excesses." But there is no mention of the one "excess" responsible for the present situation — the GE and other Big Business profits which have set new records year after year.

So Boulware's answer to your troubles is "more thought, interest, skill, care and effort . . ." and high-powered selling. The line is backed up with a glowing story about sales conferences, in which President Charles E. Wilson and Chairman of the Board Philip D. Reed both declared that the present period "is a period of normal readjustment — not a period for fear or lack of courage." And a pretty cartoon on page 1 of the Works News asks workers to believe that smart GE salesmen are going to make up for the fact that growing millions haven't the money to buy.

The line is just what was given out by Big Business in 1929. At

that time speed-up and record profits brought on a crash, the Hoover depression. Today's profiteering is far ahead of the 1929 record. But Boulware tells you that his line is "economic truth" and those who disagree are "false prophets." Evidently Boulware is established as Charlie Wilson's prophet. He even attacks the Roosevelt Administration for having taken steps to meet the extreme hardships of the Hoover depression.

Boulware says people should use their savings to buy in bad times. But he makes it clear GE has no intention of giving up any of its vast hoard of profits.

Boulware has made it clear that GE workers can expect nothing from the company in the present situation, if the decision is left to GE.

Gaeth Starts Survey

Arthur Gaeth, radio commentator on the national UE program, has started a coast-to-coast survey of the unemployment situation.

The Gaeth broadcast is at 10 p.m. every Monday on WXXW, Albany.

There's No Excuse For Such a Delay

Jobless workers in Schenectady have been waiting three and four weeks for their unemployment insurance checks. It seems that the Albany office hasn't yet sent the Schenectady office the necessary figures and records for the payments based on the new benefit year.

Where is that "efficiency" that Governor Thomas E. Dewey is always boasting about? The inefficiency in this case is causing serious hardship to men and women laid off their jobs.

CUT LAY-OFFS BY SHORTER HOURS, HIGHER PAY

Free Rein for GE At Hanford Plant

The Atomic Energy Commission has made the General Electric Company a joint dictator over all the business firms near the plutonium plant at Hanford, Wash. The arrangement was revealed recently in a Congressional investigation.

Business firms seeking to lease land near the government's "atomic community" are required to sign an agreement to "abide by such rules and regulations as General Electric Co. or the Commission may from time to time establish."

U. S. Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa called the arrangement a "complete censorship" of free enterprise.

Senator Eugene D. Millikin of Colorado demanded of Fred C. Schlemmer, Hanford manager:

"Where did you get the idea that you have a God-given right to select those who should be in your lodge?"

When AEC conspired with GE to break the UE-GE contract and to violate the rights of union members working on atomic projects there wasn't any such protest. The AEC attack on UE was carefully timed to coincide with an "investigation" of the union and Local 301 by the Hartley Committee.

But the moment "free enterprise" and business firms were affected, U. S. senators became concerned.

GE Movie Needs Some More Scenes

The General Electric Company's newest propaganda venture is a movie, "By Their Works", which was shown recently at a luncheon of the Schenectady Rotary Club.

The Schenectady Gazette reported that it showed the work of the major operating departments of GE "in terms of the people who do the work."

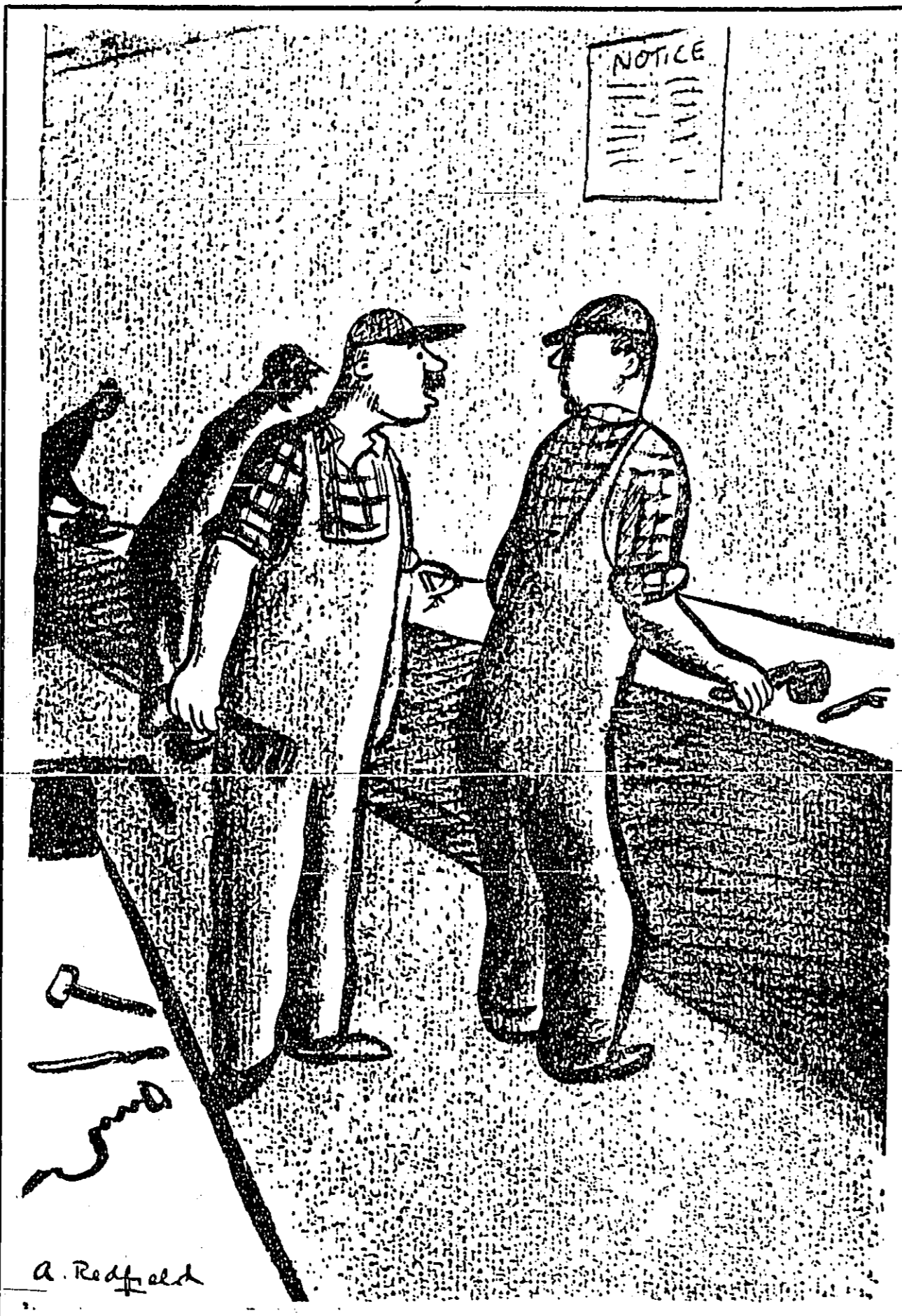
But it didn't show what was happening to the lungs of the workers in the Porcelain Division, or what happens to GE pensioners who try to live on their small pension checks.

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"...and Remember, NO SNEEZING!"



GE Can't Duck Blame For Lay-offs at Plant

Some foremen have been campaigning against the union in an effort to take the blame off the company for the current lay-offs.

These foremen tell the younger men who are bumped by men with eight or ten years' service that if it were not for the union and for seniority, they would remain on the job.

Most of the men laid off understand that seniority is a good thing, even if they happen to be laid off right now. Seniority not only protects their fathers and older brothers and sisters, but will protect them later on. Seniority is the only clear-cut protection against discrimination. Without seniority all the workers would be subject to bosses' favoritism and discrimination.

Even more important is the fact that the main trouble is any kind of lay-offs, not who is laid-off. The company, through its policies, the general policies of Big Business, has brought about the lay-offs. Only a united union fight can force the shorter work week and higher pay to stop or slow down the lay-offs. This is what some foremen are trying to prevent when they campaign against the union.

High School Graduates Hear Boulware Doctrine

The knowledge of current lay-offs must have been somewhere in the minds of 28 graduating students of Vocational High School in late June, as they listened to a rosy picture of jobs in industry, given them by a GE executive.

The GE man, John Keller of the Turbine department, was quoted at length by the Gazette on Saturday. He told the students that they must give industry full use of their skill, "conscientious care to avoid waste of time or materials, a full day's effort, and prompt and regular attendance." In return they could expect "fair compensation," and the other things on L. R. Boulware's nine-point list, including "intelligent supervision, job security, respect, opportunities for promotion."

He was not quoted as saying anything about the fact that the management of affairs by GE and other big companies has brought about mass lay-offs of present workers instead of openings for the youngsters.

Dr. C. E. Hinehey, deputy superintendent of schools, told the boys to "be worth more than you are paid." The figures for 1948 showed GE making a profit of \$1,383 per worker.

There is no need to yield to this kind of pressure. When a worker is laid-off or transferred, he is entitled to his full pay.

IS Your Shop 100% UE?

Board Donates \$50 To Canadian Seamen

A \$50 donation was voted by the 301 Executive Board recently for the strike of the Canadian Seamen's Union, affiliated with the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, AFL.

For over three years the Seamen's Union has been facing attacks by the Canadian government and ship owners on the Great Lakes and on the ocean. The ship owners and the government, which owns some shipping lines, have entered into a conspiracy with the Seafarer's International Union, AFL. They force strikes on the Seamen's Union and then put strike-breaking SIU crews aboard ships.

The present deep sea strike resulted from government owned shipping companies signing a back door agreement with the SIU which did not have a single member on the ships when the contract was signed.

SIU goon squads and police of the government owned railway and steamship lines attacked Seamen's Union pickets at Halifax and there has been violence in other cities also. Three strikers have been killed and several wounded.

Top AFL Leaders Echo Big Business

If anyone is in doubt that top leaders of the AFL are serving Big Business, instead of fighting for their union members, there's an easy way of clearing up the point. Read the recent issue of the AFL publication, "Labor's Monthly Survey."

The official AFL magazine said that wage increases should now be based on "past or future increases in productivity." According to the AFL such a speed-up must accompany any wage increase to prevent undue rises in costs.

Doesn't this sound like a "message" from Lemuel R. Boulware? The AFL said that unemployment may reach 5,000,000 by July, but "a serious business recession is almost impossible."

UE Singer Strikers Get \$50 from 301

Local 301 has sent \$50 to the UE strikers at the Singer Sewing Machine Company, Elizabeth, N. J. The money was voted recently by the Executive Board.

The 7,000 Singer workers went on strike over issues of pay, speed-up and job security. They are demanding a substantial wage increase and a shorter work week.

Troy Man Collects \$150,000 from GE To Settle Claim over Lamp Invention

The General Electric Company recently paid \$150,000 to Joseph A. Petnel of Troy to settle a law suit over his claim that he invented a double filament three-way electric lamp now being sold by GE. On the day the trial was to start in Supreme Court at Troy, announcement was made that the case had been settled out of court.

Petnel told the EU News that in 1932, during the depression, he lost his job as an electrician with Western Electric in New York City. He said he submitted the idea for his lamp invention by mail to GE with the offer to sell it to them in return for a job.

"I had a family and I just wanted work," he explained. "GE turned me down."

One-man Picket Line
In 1936 he noticed a GE lamp on the market including the main features of his invention, he said. After unsuccessful efforts to get GE to acknowledge he was the inventor, Petnel picketed the Schenectady plant all by himself in 1936. On his picket sign was printed "An Inventor's Experience with GE Co." The sign summarized his story and ended with the question "When Does Patience Cease to Be a Virtue?"

Petnel filed a suit asking to be declared inventor of the lamp and also asking that GE be restrained from further sales of the lamp and be required to render him an accounting as to the profits on the lamp since 1936.

"Fortunately I had kept my cor-

respondence with GE," Petnel told EU News. "You aren't supposed to say companies steal ideas. They invite inventors to send them ideas to review'. Of course part of the ideas may stick in their minds."

Petnel has never been employed by GE. The way things have turned out he thinks it's just as well.

"Inventors working for GE only get one dollar for an invention that may make millions for the company," he said.

Wishes UE Good Luck
Petnel declared that UE has his wishes for good luck in the current contract negotiations.

"GE has plenty of money to pay higher wages," he declared. "They've got financial wizards there to keep the public from finding out how much profit they really make."

"Workers and inventors never get paid anything near what their work is worth by big corporations," Petnel said. "A lot of the profit is drained by the big officials."

