

WHY, GOOD MORNING, MR. WILSON!

Miner's Son in Congress Calls for Repeal of T-H

The son of a West Virginia coal miner last week spearheaded what appeared to be a desperate rear guard struggle for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act in Congress.

Rep. Robert C. Byrd, a youthful freshman congressman, appeared as a witness before the House labor committee and attacked T-H as being "conceived in an atmosphere of recrimination, reaction and revenge and born in a moment of weakness."

Byrd was bitterly denounced for his statement by Dixiecrat Graham Barden of North Carolina, who demanded, "How do you dare make such insulting reflections on the members of Congress?" Byrd replied that he believed he was speaking the convictions of the people of West Virginia and of more than 16 million union members throughout the nation.

However, Byrd's courageous position only served to further underline the weakness of the pro-labor forces in Congress, a weakness partly resulting from the abandonment by large sections of organized labor of the demand for outright repeal of Taft-Hartley.

With the united front of labor against T-H broken, big business

OK \$300 Donation

A \$300 contribution to the Mayor's Going Away Inductees Committee recommended by the executive board was approved by the membership Monday. The committee is set up to give "send offs" to Schenectady men inducted into the armed services.

The members also approved the designation of President James Cognetta as the local's representative on the committee.

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Members OK Year's Service Minimum for Shop Stewards

Monday's membership meeting adopted 2 changes in the UE Local 301 constitution, but rebuffed an attempt to institute a 3rd amendment.

Most important of the changes adopted was to make one year's membership in the local a requirement for election as shop steward. Chief purpose of the amendment was to make sure that every union member would have representation of a man or woman with substantial experience in the organization.

The 2nd adopted change formalized the recently voted 50c dues increase. It specified that the additional monies could be used only for defense of the union and the construction of a new hall.

Defeated after long discussion was a proposal to extend the terms of local officers to 2 years. The suggestion came to the floor as a minority report of the constitutions committee which had voted 6 to 1 against it. The minority report advocated the move as a major economy for the local.

However, opponents emphasized that such a change would be a step away from the traditional UE policy of the greatest possible democracy for all members, and of granting the rank and file the opportunity to review the records of its leadership through elections held as frequently as is practical. The constitutions committee majority said that it was seriously studying other means of effecting economies in the voting procedures.

The membership defeated the proposed constitutional change by a 3 to 1 ratio.

Two Hydrogen Furnace Operators Win Boosts

Two hydrogen furnace operators in Building 269 have been upgraded with rate increases which will amount to 16½¢ an hour as the result of a grievance docket filed by Local 301.

The men involved are William Cain and George Bunt. They were classified as C operators before the grievance was processed. The union contended that their duties were strictly those of B operators. Supervision refused to recognize this and the case had to be referred to the 2nd level.

There, management maintained supervision's position until it was proved that the facts on which they based their refusal to upgrade the men involved were completely wrong. Finally, management gave in and upgraded the men. Their old rate was \$1.68½. In their new classification Cain and Bunt are on a progression scale going up to \$1.85.

Helen Nichols was the shop steward who handled the case.

Incidentally, Bunt had not been a union member up until the time the docket was filed for Cain. However, when he saw the grievance machinery in action he was convinced that he needed the union too, and he applied for membership.

Question and Answer Corner

Every day in the shops, stewards and other active union members are approached by some of their fellow workers and asked questions about our union, UE. Some of these questions keep popping up over and over again. For this reason, the EU News has decided to launch this new feature in which some of the most common inquiries are put down, together with what we feel are honest and complete replies.

Question: Don't UE workers have the full legal right to select their own leaders, regardless of what the employers or politicians think of them?

Answer: It is the position of the UE that they should have, and under the UE constitution, they have that right. However, the Taft-Hartley act was passed at the instigation of the employers to take that right away from the

working people. The instrument for doing so is the T-H non-Communist affidavits.

Recent indictments of labor leaders on charges that they falsified their T-H affidavits because, though not members of the Communist Party, they were "affiliated with it, shows the aim of Taft-Hartley. To employers, and to officials dominated by employer interests, Communist "affiliation" includes any political thinking or union policy that employers do not like.

The purpose is to outlaw any form of political thinking by labor, and to outlaw any opposition to the policies approved by the big corporations. High taxes on the low incomes, the McCarran-Walter act, the Taft-Hartley act itself,

and new schemes to outlaw industry-wide bargaining, show how important it is to the employers to keep the labor movement under political control.

These are the reasons why the T-H affidavits are the most evil and far-reaching anti-labor provisions of the T-H act, and indicate why labor must fight endlessly until the T-H act is repealed.

Question: Were the non-Communist affidavits signed by UE officers under oath, and if so, what is the penalty for a false statement on the affidavit?

Answer: All Taft-Hartley non-Communist affidavits are signed under oath. The penalty for false statement is 5 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 11 — No. 9

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, February 27, 1953



Detroit—UE Local 907 won an 8c to 10c wage increase for employees of the Vickers plant here, bringing the average wage in the shop to \$2.28 an hour. The increase was won in wage reopener negotiations which also saw the workers gain the best insurance plan in the city. Under this plan, sick or disabled employees will receive \$49 a week for 26 weeks, instead of the previous \$42 for 13 weeks. Additional improvements were made in permanent disability pension, hospitalization and life insurance provisions.

Dearborn, Mich.—Ford Local 600 has elected an almost entirely anti-Reuther slate to the CIO United Autoworkers convention which will get under way in Atlantic City on March 22. The slate, headed by President Carl Stellato, is pledged to a fight against secret bargaining by national officers with the corporations, and for better organizing and wage drives and a bill of rights to protect local autonomy. They also will seek to pass a constitutional amendment banning long-term agreements similar to the 5-year pacts now in effect with the big companies. Local 600 is the largest union local in the country with nearly 60,000 members.

Hamilton, Ontario—UE Local 520 has negotiated a 14c hourly package increase in a new contract with the Brown Boggs foundry. The package includes a 7c wage boost and another 7c in fringe improvements.

New York—Amendment of the "ill conceived . . . vicious" McCarran-Walter immigration law to end restrictions on foreign-born seamen was demanded by the CIO National Maritime Union this week. The demand was contained in a letter to Congress by NMU President Joseph Curran.

Peoria, Ill.—Workers at the ABC washing machine plant here have approved a new contract providing a 7c to 10c wage increase. The pact negotiated by UE Local 1144, brings the average amount of wage increases won since Jan., 1951, to 33c an hour.

Stewards Start Schooling



SCHOOL'S IN. The camera catches the shop stewards as they listen to Business Agent Leo Jandreau discuss the job of contract enforcement at Tuesday's opening session of the UE Local 301 stewards' school. Jandreau is shown emphasizing a particular point in the picture at the lower right.

UE To Begin Reopener Talks With Company on Thursday

UE negotiators are expected to open talks aimed at getting a general wage increase, eliminating of discriminatory rates and obtaining payment for 1953's 2 Saturday holidays from GE on Thursday, March 5. The discussions will be on those portions of the year's demands which the UE-GE conference board voted to present in the spring reopener.

Stress Discrimination Danger to All Workers

The danger of discrimination to every worker in the plant was stressed by Business Agent Leo Jandreau this week in his discussion of UE's program to end all forms of unfair treatment based on sex, color or national origin. Jandreau pointed out that "as long as there is discrimination against Negroes, women or any other group, then every worker and every rate is threatened."

The business agent asserted that as long as the company could use discrimination to force women to do highly skilled work for rates like \$1.47 an hour, then skilled men workers have no guarantees that their jobs won't be cut down to that level, particularly in the event of a depression. He noted that during the war, some GE plants had women on jobs as heavy as turbine building so that workers who say, "sex discrimination doesn't affect me because a woman could never do my job" are just kidding themselves.

He pointed out that discrimination against Negro workers, and splitting one group of workers from another by exploiting national prejudices are among the oldest tricks in the company book for keeping all wages and conditions down.



Attendance Near 100% Mark at First Session

UE Local 301 shop stewards began to serve notice on the company that they will be in fighting trim during forthcoming negotiations when they turned out Tuesday for the opening session of the stewards' school being conducted by the local.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau conducted the class which dealt with all phases of the contract and its enforcement. Committee men and women under Executive Board Members Charles Scott, Sadie Iovinella and Vincent Palazske were at the session, with attendance approaching the 100% mark. Stewards under Frank D'Amico, Percy Everett, James De Masseo, George Agius, Sidney Friedlander and Joseph Whitbeck were slated to attend classes on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Jandreau covered the UE-GE contract article by article, pointing out the specific duties of the stewards under each provision. Throughout the evening, the business agent kept the floor open for questions.

Class Schedule

The stewards under the following board members are scheduled for classes next week at these times:

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.: Fay Hildreth and Henry Kaminiski.

Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.: Lloyd Perue and Edward LaBombard.

Thursday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.: Elroy Marine and Allen Townsend.

Stewards' Meeting Scheduled Monday

Monday's meeting of the UE Local 301 shop stewards will be the 1st session to count toward the banquet to be given for committee men and women at the end of the year.

Under a procedure recently adopted by the executive board, stewards who attend 8 of the 10 remaining 1953 meetings, will be entitled to attend the banquet. This will be an added incentive for the stewards to attend their meetings.

The 1st two stewards' meetings of the year have been among the best attended sessions in recent years. As a result, the committee members have been able to do their jobs as representatives of the men and women in the shops.

The 2-meeting allowance for the stewards was set to enable them to send alternates when it is completely impossible to attend the sessions without losing out on the banquet.

UE Gets Dues Award

UE will receive \$46,343 as a result of a court decision on dividing dues monies held in escrow since the 1949 split in the Westinghouse chain. The award divided the money among UE, IUE-CIO and the company. It was agreed on by attorneys for all 3 parties.

UE LOCAL 301 STEWARDS MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, March 2, 1953
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, March 2, 1953
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

Tax Cut Talk Seen As Strictly Sham

There were increasing signs this week that talk about cutting income taxes for the working people is just talk and nothing more.

Persons close to Congress predicted that the only 1953 tax cut would be the ending of the excess profits tax on the big war earnings of large corporations. They said that the move to reduce personal income taxes, proposed by Rep. Daniel Reed of N. Y., will be pigeonholed.

Durkin Group Meets to Plan Amendments to Taft-Hartley

A 15-member committee of top leaders representing labor, industry and the public met this week under chairmanship of Labor Secretary Martin P. Durkin, in an effort to reach agreement on what changes should be made in the Taft-Hartley law.

T-H Board Chief Seeks New Union Frameup Law

Chairman Paul Herzog of the Taft-Hartley board this week revealed that he wants new laws to frame labor leaders.

Herzog told a Congressional committee that the old T-H non-Communist oaths had failed in their job of building frame up cases against union officials and therefore should be discarded. He said that some new gimmick should be written into law.

While Herzog wasn't specific, presumably he was proposing the legalizing of the recent NLRB order which attempted to force UE leaders and other union people to sign new and completely unlawful affidavits. This NLRB move was thrown out by a federal court in Washington after UE sought an injunction to stop it.

The committee, Durkin said he was carrying out pledges made by President Eisenhower in his speech to the AFL during the election campaign that he was going to get advice of labor, management and the public on changes in the law.

Some labor leaders regarded the move as an attempt to demonstrate to Congress that organized labor is content with amendments alone. All, however, agreed to go along with the committee and see what happens.

Labor members are AFL President George Meany, CIO President Walter Reuther, President John L. Lewis of United Mine Workers, President George M. Harrison of Brotherhood of Railway Clerks (AFL) and President David J. McDonald of United Steelworkers (CIO).

Public members are Sumner H. Slichter, Harvard University; Cyrus S. Ching, former federal mediation chief; Jean T. McKelvey, Cornell University; Maurice T. Van Hecke, University of North Carolina; and Paul A. Dodd, University of California.

Industry members are Harry M. Moses, head of the Bituminous Coal Operators Assn.; President David Zellerbach, Crown-Zellerbach Corp.; President John J. O'Donnell, Nat'l Constructors Assn.; Vice-President Ben Morell, Jones & Laughlin Steel Co.; and President Frank Rising, Automotive and Aviation Parts Assn.

Durkin said all members had accepted appointment and agreed to attend the opening meeting. After that session the group will be broken up into sub-committees.

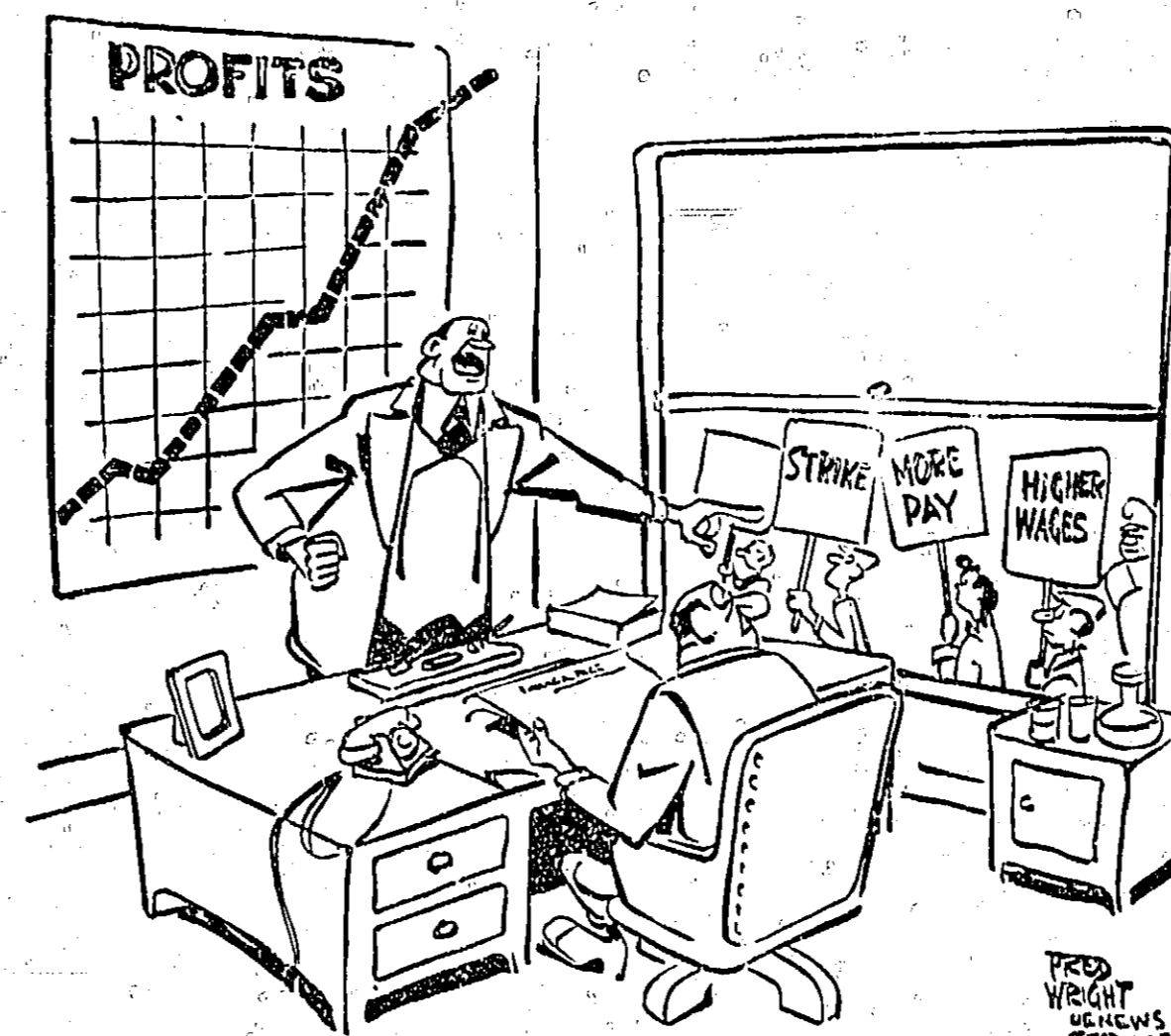
The labor secretary said the sub-committees plan to meet in daily sessions until each has reached agreement on what changes should be made in the labor law or until they have decided they can go no further toward agreement.

UE Routs Raiders

UE has defeated 2 raiding unions at the Key Copeland Refrigeration shop in Sidney, Ohio. The union retained bargaining rights by a substantial majority over IBEW-AFL, while the IUE-CIO got only a handful of votes. The count was UE 472; IBEW 302; and IUE 29.

Copeland is one of the most important shops in the 4,000-member Sidney-Piqua amalgamated local.

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I'M SURE IT'S SPITE...EVERYTIME PROFITS INCREASE THOSE JEALOUS WORKERS WANT HIGHER WAGES!

UE's Call for United Action Hailed by IUE Rank and File

UE's call for united action has been distributed at shop gates of a number of General Electric plants where other unions have bargaining rights. Among them are the Lynn

works, where the IUE-CIO is bargaining representative. According to leaflet distributors at the scene, the appeal was extremely well received by the rank and file, and has brought increasing pressure from the workers on union leaders who have up to now been unwilling to recognize that their members, like all GE workers, have suffered because of the split in the industry.

The UE call for unity was issued by the union's GE conference board early this month. It pointed out that most major benefits in the contract were secured before the 1949 split, and that as long as the company and its agents can prevent the adoption of a united action program, the job of the workers in making any real gains is going to be increasingly tough.

UE's proposal is for joint action around a minimum program on which all unions can agree. Such things as a general wage increase, payment for Saturday holidays and ending discrimination in pay would form such a minimum program. Both the UE and IUE-CIO have asked for these things in wage reopener demands on the company.

The possibilities for united action are greatly increased by the fact that both UE and IUE are beginning the reopener talks with

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Boulware Worried Plenty About 'Danger' of Unity

Growing demands for unity among the workers in the GE chain have management worried plenty. This was revealed recently by no less an authority than L. B. Boulware, the company vice-president in charge of splitting the workers into as many splinters as possible.

Boulware's deep concern over the mounting response of the rank and file in all unions to UE's calls for united action is contained in the Feb. 17 GE Employee Relations News Letter, sent by Boulware to management brass throughout the chain. He reports that the unions "seem to be toying with the idea of joint action," and warns that a "big united push" may be a reality by fall negotiations time, and that there is even a "danger" that company splitting tactics will be knocked down by the workers during forthcoming wage reopener discussions.

There is nothing that Boulware fears more than a program of united action by General Electric workers, especially now with the wage freeze a thing of the past. Such united action would return GE employees to the strong bargaining position they had before the Boulware-inspired, Carey-led split in 1949.

Incidentally, Boulware has his answer to labor unity in the newsletter. He issues a frantic appeal to fellow bosses to hotfoot it down to Washington and throw their weight around in favor of new anti-labor legislation.

Worker May Lose Hand as Price of Speedup

Jim Harrington, 32-year-old father of 3 small children, suffered the possible loss of his right hand Tuesday in an accident while working on a speeded-up punch press in Building 17.

Harrington, a former shop steward, was in Albany Hospital where the full extent of his injury had not yet been determined when this edition went to press. However, indications were that he would at least lose all 5 fingers, and possibly might have to undergo amputation of his entire hand.

The tragedy occurred when Harrington attempted to separate 2 sheets of metal which had stuck together. The press tripped, catching Harrington's hand.

Union spokesmen in the division charged that the tight prices and speedup in the department were largely responsible for the accident. They pointed out that the union has been constantly struggling against attempts to tighten prices so much that workers would have to risk their limbs in order to make out. Ironically, Harrington, long an active union fighter, has played a major part in fighting the unsafe speedup of which he was the victim.

Another factor in the accident was the faulty materials. Recently, the union had to take 2 cases all the way up to 41 to win payment for time lost because of such faulty material, and there was a tendency to try and make up lost time on the presses, despite the risks involved, rather than to get into long wrangles with the company over payment.

Another safety hazard has been created in punch press by the refusal of management to provide adequate service help to keep the area clear.

Shop stewards in 17 have taken up a shop collection to try to give some help to Jim Harrington's family during the rough financial times that are ahead for it.

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Whitbeck, Cognetta Get Community Posts

UE Local 301 President James Cognetta will be the union's representative on the executive board of the Schenectady Community Chest.

This will give the union a spokesman on the coordinating body of the major charitable, health and welfare organizations in the area.

A second local officer, Treasurer Joseph Whitbeck, was also appointed to an important community post. Whitbeck was named as a member of a special 12-member advisory committee to the municipal housing authority. This group will seek to obtain housing for Negro families being displaced by a slum clearance project east of city hall. One of the big jobs of the committee will be to dent Jim Crow housing policies which shut Negro families out of most sections of the city.

In his position as a committee member, Whitbeck will have an opportunity to work for the UE program to end discrimination, whether it be in housing, hiring or any other phase of community life. The committee will also seek housing for white families displaced by the slum clearance project.

Members Grab Tix For Giveaway Loot

Showing that they have sharp eyes for a bargain, UE Local 301 members this week bought tickets on the union's big 6-prize giveaway program just about as fast as they could be printed. Many stewards reported that they had completely sold out on their original allotment of tickets and that they needed more.

The tickets were selling at 3 for only 25c. At that price, purchasers become eligible to win one or more of the following prizes:

1. A complete \$100 Easter outfit for either a man or woman.
2. A \$75 3-piece luggage set.
3. A \$50 case of assorted liquor.
4. A \$37.50 electric roaster.
5. A \$25 machinist's tool box.
6. A \$12.50 Shakespearean fishing reel.

In addition, \$5 will be given each man or woman who sells one of the winning tickets.

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UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 11: Several months ago, Robert Gordon requested a transfer from 2nd shift to 1st shift. This has never been granted although several other workers have received such transfers. This is discrimination and the union demands that it be stopped.

Bldg. 16: O. E. Daviero asks a transfer to 1st shift. He accepted a 3rd shift job at the convenience of the company, but his doctor has told him that he must return to day work. Since his job can be done on the 1st shift, the union demands that he be given the change of shift he requests.

There has been a shortage of work on job being performed by John Gaydushek for several months. Since this shortage continues, the union demands a proper reduction in forces.

Bldg. 19: Prices on annealing operation were based on the layout of 3 blanks across the annealing belt. About 1 year ago, 2nd shift workers were ordered by supervision not to load more than 2 blanks. This order was never given to 1st shift. As a result 2nd shift group has suffered an approximately 30% loss in earnings. Recently the foreman ordered the group to run 3 blanks at a time. Apparently, someone in supervision blundered, and the workers

have been paying for it. Therefore, the union demands adjustment in price on all work done by 2nd shift group within the year that the incorrect order was in effect.

Bldg. 21: Mary Malik is classified as a C assembler. Her foreman admits that she is doing B work, but refuses to reclassify her. The union demands that she be upgraded with a proper rate adjustment.

Bldg. 66: C. Smith does not feel that the price on stator frame drawing 153D669-1 is adequate. Supervision has refused to either time study the job or to apply the proper table. The union demands that a proper price be assigned to this job.

Bldg. 73A: Assemblers working on large enclosing cases protest

the failure of supervision to assign proper service help on Saturdays. During the week, they work with 3 stockroom accumulators, but on Saturdays when the entire group works, only 1 accumulator is called in. The union demands assignment of full complement of accumulators on Saturdays.

Bldg. 273: Although an A opening existed on 1st shift, R. Montanaro was forced to take a 3rd shift job to get the A classification. Lesser service workers have been given 1st shift A jobs. Therefore, the union demands that Montanaro be put on 1st shift.

A helper is needed on the 7" G&L horizontal. Similar machines have helpers assigned to them elsewhere. The union demands that a helper be added.

Group of crane followers are being forced to list the starting time of each lift. This is not a part of their job duties, and the union demands that supervision assign proper personnel to list the times if it feels that such listing is needed.

Toolmakers' group protests the farming out of work when they are not being fully utilized. The union demands that these workers be given the same consideration as other workers in the Turbine division, and that the practice of farming out be stopped.

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