

ISSUE MISSING

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

September 23, 1949

Relected National UE Officers



President Albert J. Fitzgerald



James J. Matles
Director of
Organization



Julius Emspak
Secretary-
Treasurer

UE Convention Concentrates Its Attention On Bread-and-Butter Issues, Despite Carey

In keeping with UE tradition, the national UE convention at Cleveland this week concentrated on a program to unite the membership in their fight to improve their living conditions. By a big majority vote of the delegates the convention's business centered on the membership's economic interests, in spite of efforts of the James B. Carey group and the Big Business newspapers to turn the convention into a factional free-for-all.

In the first roll call vote, the delegates Tuesday adopted 2,376 to 1,464 the General Executive Board statement calling for a united fight of all UE members for shorter hours, higher pay, better pensions and health and insurance plans. This vote was a thumping defeat for the Carey group which urged that UE locals dealing with independent companies delay bargaining until settlements are negotiated with the main electrical chains. The convention rejected this minority proposal.

Condemn Steel Board of Inquiry

The GEB statement also condemned the steel Board of Inquiry and charged that a number of employers in the electrical industry "have already attempted to use that report to check the developing pattern of gains which the UE has succeeded in establishing".

Carey defended the steel board's recommendations and ridiculed the gains which UE has made. So far in 1949 UE has made 300 complete or partial settlements in contract negotiations.

The lies spread by the Carey group about a fight looming over credentials were disproved the op-

ening day. The credentials committee, which includes Carey supporters like all the other committees, made a unanimous report. All delegates' credentials were approved, except for 10 delegates from four locals, less than 1 per cent of the total.

Action on Taft-Hartley

The convention on Tuesday approved the GEB recommendation that Taft-Hartley affidavits be filed so that UE can use the Taft-Hartley board machinery in fighting off raids and disruption.

The resolution on Taft-Hartley pointed out that for more than two years UE has refrained from using the Taft-Hartley board "as a necessary condition for carrying on a consistent and principled fight for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act."

"This has not been the case with the majority of the unions of the CIO and the AFL," the resolution declared.

The increased attacks by employers on the working people have been aided by "the growing attack upon the principles and practice of democratic rank-and-file

Important Matters Slated For Membership Meeting

When this week's UE News went to press Local 301 was still trying to find a hall large enough to fit the importance of the membership meeting next Tuesday night, September 27. The second shift meeting will be at 1 p. m., Wednesday at the union hall.

Three matters of great importance are scheduled for this meeting.

The Local 301 delegates to the UE Conference Board of GE locals will report on the joint meeting of the GE and Westinghouse Conference Boards which will take place Monday in New York City. The joint boards are to consider taking a strike vote of the membership of GE and Westinghouse locals.

Reports will be made on the national UE convention by the 10 Local 301 delegates.

Reports will be made on the recent state CIO convention by the local's 10 delegates.

To Elect Treasurer

In addition, the membership will elect a treasurer to serve for the remainder of the year. William Downs resigned the office recently to study for the ministry. The Executive Board named Marshall White, former treasurer, to replace him pending the membership meeting.

The union office has mailed the 301 membership cards for the last quarter of 1949 to all members. For identification purposes, every

trade unionism—an attack carried on from within the labor movement as well as from without," the resolution also stated.

Must Defeat Attacks

The convention voted that "the most important task of the UE is to continue to defend and fight for its rank-and-file democracy, unite itself against disruption from within and place itself in the best possible position of defense against attacks from without."

Three of Local 301's 10 delegates were placed on committees. Business Agent Leo Jandreau is chairman of the resolutions committee; Board Member Helen Quirini is on the labor and social legislation committee and Treasurer Marshall White on the constitution committee.

member attending the membership meeting next week must bring this membership card and his GE badge.

In view of the importance of the meeting, the Executive Board directed the union office to rent the largest available hall for Tuesday night. At press time the office had been trying unsuccessfully for 10 days to get a suitable hall.

Discussions were continuing with the theatre chain which operates the Erie Theatre.

Armory Not Available

The State Armory was refused to the union on the grounds that Tuesday is a drill night. Dr. Carter Davidson, president of Union College, said the college board had decided not to let the union rent the chapel or gymnasium because 301 generally had its own meeting place. He said that organizations allowed to use these assembly places hold meetings that are open to the public.

The assistant superintendent of schools, Dr. C. E. Hinchey, said that school auditoriums are not available for meetings that are not open to the general public. The union office reminded him that the General Electric Company is allowed to use a school several nights a week for programs for which tickets are issued. Dr. Hinchey replied that the general public can attend the GE program nights without tickets.

The place of the Tuesday night meeting will be announced as soon as it is determined.

301 Constitution

Copies of the Local 301 Constitution will be available for all members of the union next week at the union office.

A 301 membership meeting this summer directed that the constitution be printed, as many amendments have been voted since the last printing.

Miners on Strike; Steel May Be Next

Employer resistance to wage raises and pensions and welfare plans forced a nation-wide coal strike this week, and even raised the possibility of a steel strike.

In their resistance to raises, the employers had the backing of President Truman's "fact-finding" board's report. As to welfare, the report called for employer-paid pensions and insurance, but apparently the big employers felt they could refuse just the same.

The coal miners walked out after President John L. Lewis announced that failure of many mine owners to pay into the pension and welfare fund had caused the fund to stop payment of benefits to sick and aged miners. Also involved in the fight is the whole question of a new contract.

In steel, the prediction had been made in all quarters that the "fact-finding" board report would prevent a strike. President Philip Murray of the United Steelworker accepted the recommendations promptly. The big steel companies however, refused to accept the recommendations as the basis of negotiations, despite repeated pleas and warnings by Murray.

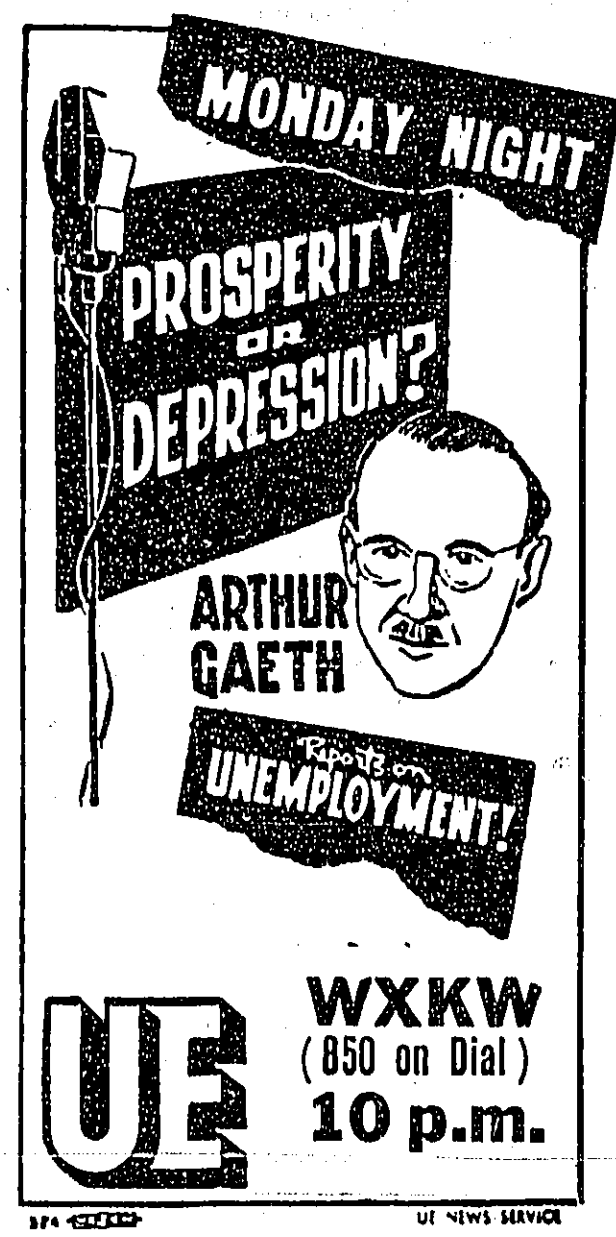
Rubber Strike

The rubber workers are on strike against the Goodrich company, over wages, pensions, and health and welfare plans. There is a possibility of a strike against Ford. The membership there has voted overwhelmingly for a strike.

The newspapers have been stressing what the coal and steel strikes might do to employment in other industries. The facts are not too clear now. But the most important thing is that the employers are in a united front against workers' demands, and are virtually challenging the unions to take common action.

UE Asked Joint Fight

UE nationally has proposed over and over that the major CIO unions, particularly steel, auto, and UE, organize a joint fight for their bargaining program. Steel and



Unusual— To Say the Least

Apart from the remarkable collection of vicious lies which it contained, there were two other remarkable features about the "601 Union Generator" 8-page paper distributed by the Carey supporters here last week:

1. While it was distributed in Schenectady on Wednesday, September 14, the 601 executive board in East Pittsburgh, voted on Friday, September 16, to authorize its printing and distribution.

2. While it is supposed to be the organ of many thousands of Westinghouse workers now engaged in a tough bargaining fight with the company, you could not find any reference to the negotiations in the whole paper.

auto and the national CIO did not respond.

The developments have confirmed what this paper said on August 12, namely that any concession made by a government agency to Phillip Murray would be much less than could be won through a united fight as proposed by UE.

The steel "fact-finding board" recommendations amount to four cents an hour's worth of insurance, and less where there already is an insurance plan. The six cents an hour for pensions would be something for study by March 1, 1950, and then for negotiations. The only part of the recommendations likely to affect the present contract would be the possible four cents' worth of insurance.

UE Is Example of Real Democracy

Covering up a dishonest trick by accusing one's opponent of planning such a trick is an old political maneuver.

In just that way, the Carey supporters who for years have been trying to destroy UE's democracy so they can take control now let out loud yells accusing the present UE national officers of planning "thought control" and "dictatorship."

The accusations are based on a constitutional amendment recommended by the General Executive Board of UE to the present international convention. The amendment simply provides that the General Executive Board may conduct the trial of any UE member accused of "participating in or encouraging secession from UE or raiding against UE, or dual unionism."

Protection Against Raiding

The amendment is a necessity to protect the membership against raiding. It makes it possible for the union General Executive Board, representing the whole membership, to move promptly against members or local officers who misuse their positions of trust to try to break up UE, and who have so gained control of the machinery of their local that prosecution through the local is impossible. The amendment is required against the present-day danger of raiding. If the Carey group were not planning a drive against UE, they would not object to the proposed amendment.

But the remarkable thing about the Carey outcry is that the CIO unions in which his friends hold

office have constitutional disciplinary provisions that really threaten democracy.

As against the clear-cut proposed UE provision against raiding and dual unionism, the United Auto Workers' last convention gave the UAW general executive board power to bring members to trial for violation of the constitution or "for conduct unbecoming a member of the Union." This language can cover criticism of union policy or anything else that the Walter Reuther leadership does not like.

"Democracy" in Buffalo

Last April seven officers of Local 2603 United Steelworkers in Buffalo criticized Philip Murray's failure to file Taft-Hartley non-Communist affidavits. At that time it was still Steelworker policy not to file affidavits. The union's district director moved in with charges, and promptly the seven were punished. The local president was suspended from membership for 30 days and barred from running for office for two years. Ever hear of anyone bringing charges against the many in UE who have screamed for affidavits?

The proposed UE amendment will strengthen UE democracy. UE's democracy is shown at its highest in the simplest thing: the membership must vote directly on a strike. The membership must vote on accepting a proposed settlement. Contrast this with what happened in the pending steel situation.

Membership control is shown and practiced throughout the UE constitution.

Tinsmiths and Helpers Walk Out as Protest

All tinsmiths and helpers walked off their jobs Monday in the second successive protest against the company's refusal to adjust their rates. The group, which is in Building 52, had walked off at 3 p.m. eleven days before that. This time they walked out at 2 p.m.

The walk-out is legal under the contract, in view of the fact that the grievance has gone to the end of procedure without bringing a satisfactory settlement.

Blood Donors Needed

Blood donors are still needed to help the widow of a Local 801 member repay Ellis Hospital for eight pints of blood used in transfusions for her husband, Paul Grass. He was a member of 801 since its formation.

Volunteers should notify the union office.

Echo of Hoover

President Herbert Hoover told the American Bankers Association Oct. 2, 1930:

"There are a few folks in business and several folks in the political world who resent the notion that things will ever get better and who wish to enjoy our temporary misery."

And now listen to what President Truman said in a radio speech July 12, 1949:

"Some people are saying, and saying very loudly, that these facts mean that we are in a depression. Many of these people, for political reasons, would like to have a depression."

Unemployment Figures

Jobless workers registered with the Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office as of Sept. 9 totaled 3,434. The figure was 3,497 on Sept. 2 and 3,293 Aug. 26.

Big Companies Increasing Control

The 113 manufacturing concerns worth \$100,000,000 or more apiece control almost half the nation's total manufacturing wealth, Russ Nixon, UE legislative representative, pointed out recently. He quoted a recent Federal Trade Commission report, based on 1947 figures, which reflects the increased concentration since World War II began.

Steel: Eight companies control 70 per cent of the industry. U. S. Steel alone controls about one third of the entire steel industry.

Automobile: Three companies control about 70 per cent of the auto and truck manufacturing industry. General Motors has 41 per cent, Ford has 22 per cent and Chrysler 6 per cent.

Aluminum: Three companies own ALL of this industry. Aluminum Corp. of America owns 55 per cent, and Reynolds Metal owns 30 per cent.

Tin Cans and Tinware: American Can controls 55 per cent and Continental Can 37 per cent. All the other companies have 8 per cent.

Rubber Tires and Tubes: The Big Four (Goodyear, Firestone, U. S. Rubber and Goodrich) own 88 per cent of the entire industry.

Aircraft: Eight big outfits own nearly three-fourths of the industry.

Electrical Machinery: Classified as "moderate concentration" because it takes 15 concerns to account for 60 per cent of the industry.

These are the great champions of "free, private enterprise." Besides great economic power, these big outfits exercise hidden but very great political power. It was against their domination of America that Franklin Roosevelt spoke out so strongly.

The Federal Trade Commission was right when it recently stated "No great stretch of the imagination is required to foresee that if nothing is done to check the giant in concentration, either the giant corporations will ultimately take over the country, or the Government will be impelled to step in and impose some form of direct regulation in the public interest."

These great monopolies are the real threat to American freedom.

12 Cent Package Won at Toronto

Wage increases and other gains making up a 12 cent an hour package for the workers of the Willard Storage Battery Co. were won by UE Local 512 at Toronto, Canada.

The package includes eight cents across the board on hourly rates, two cents on the shift bonus, and a welfare plan including life insurance, sickness and accident benefits, hospitalization and surgical expenses, to be paid for in full by the company.

Union Wins Checks For Jobless Woman

UE Local 1227 scored a victory recently at the Unemployment Insurance office in New York City by winning more than \$100 in back checks for a woman who had been disqualified from receiving jobless pay.

The woman had refused employment at less than union wages and working more than union hours. The jobs she turned down paid only 70 and 75 cents an hour for a nine-hour day. A referee reversed a ruling against the worker and declared she had refused the jobs "with good cause."

Chosen Shop Stewards

Shop stewards chosen between July 1 and Sept. 8 are as follows:

K-1, Anthony Esposito. Building 5, William Stella. Bldg. 11, Duffield Moore. Bldg. 16, William G. Cwirko and Zygfryd J. Sawicki. Bldg. 17, Rudolph F. Keller and Mrs. Petronella Rendo. Bldg. 23 (office service), Arthur Slocum. Bldg. 28, Joseph J. Mulligan. Bldg. 37, Marie Wilbur. Bldg. 52, Frank Diehsner, Frank J. Albert and Edward Kowalski. Bldg. 66, Harvey Giacinto. Bldg. 77, Michael Riggi. Bldg. 95, Louis Viscio. Bldg. 109, Guy Peterson. Bldg. 273, Frank Banker, Henry L. Esposito, Jack A. Kilmer and Robert Montgomery. CAP, William J. Hood.

Unemployed Members

If you are laid off for lack of work, protect your unemployment insurance rights and your job rights at GE by coming to the Local 301 office, corner of Liberty St. and Erie Blvd., immediately. Be sure to apply for unemployment insurance the day after you leave work.

Keep your union membership by paying 10 cents a month dues.

If your unemployment insurance checks are delayed,

If you have any grievance regarding your unemployment insurance,

If you have any relief or eviction problem,

Or if you have any problem due to being laid off,

Come to the union hall. The union will do its best to help you.

Practically Grounds for Firing



"What, another raise! You just had one six years ago!"

301 Protests Proposed Tax

A committee from the Local 301 Executive Board called on Arthur Blessing, executive secretary of the City Planning Commission, Friday of last week to protest the commission's proposal for a Schenectady sales tax.

Representing the union were President Frank Kriss, Board Members Joseph Mangino, James Cognetta and William Stewart and the 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin.

Blessing claimed that a sales tax to cover the cost of capital improvements recommended by the Commission would scarcely be felt by Schenectady workers. The union members showed him that by his own figures the tax would average \$14 a year a person, or \$70 for the usual family unit of five.

The union committee said that 301 is unalterably opposed to any form of sales tax as an added burden to those least able to pay. The group said the city should demand increased state aid and should make GE and ALCO pay their just share of taxes on their property and profits.

Blessing expressed fear that such a move would drive GE out of town. He said he will continue to press for a sales tax.

Canadian GE Girls Stop Speed-Up

Protests of girl winders at the General Electric's Davenport works at Toronto, Canada, recently halted management's plan to introduce a tricky form of speed-up in the specialty transformer division.

Management had announced it would bring in 12 new girls for night shift to work 32½ hours a week. The 15 girls in the department on day shift protested the arrangement and pointed out that the UE contract specified a work-week of 44 hours.

Then management proposed rearranging the shifts, so that the new girls also would get 44 hours work, but the regular day shift would have to report at 6 a.m. and also work Saturdays. This plan also was unanimously rejected by the girls as another attempt to speed them up and also speed up the new employees.

The winders have made many complaints about turning out work at piece-work effort and receiving only day-rate, not the guaranteed bonus. The union is pressing grievance cases for them.

Have You Given This Week
To the Singer Strikers?

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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How Schenectady Press Reported the Big Flop

The Schenectady Union-Star finally admitted Friday of last week that the much ballyhooed "demonstration" by supporters of James B. Carey the day before was a flop.

The Gazette wasn't as smart, however, and tried to keep up the pretense that there was a real demonstration. Both papers had given tremendous space to the Carey group's distortions and wild claims before the affair and worked hard to try to build up a turn-out.

The Gazette ran an open call for violence issued by 301 Recording Secretary Frank Fiorillo, leader of the Carey faction here.

A statement was issued to both newspapers late Thursday of last week by 22 officers and Board members of the union, declaring that the so-called demonstration was organized by James Thomas Fitzpatrick of Pittsburgh, a Carey supporter, "in an effort to disrupt our pending negotiations and assist GE in opposing the just demands of its employees for shorter hours, higher pay and decent pensions."

The Union-Star ran only one short paragraph of the union statement in full and summarized another paragraph. Both papers omitted the following reference to the aid Fitzpatrick received from the newspapers.

"In this work, J. T. Fitzpatrick, the agent of anti-union forces in Pittsburgh, received the generous assistance of the local press. The press did not even refrain from publishing calls to violence and rioting."

The statement pointed out that GE workers "showed their understanding of the issue by staying away from the anti-UE demonstration almost unanimously."

Want to Join 301 Bowling League?

Fill out the form below and turn it in to the union office if you want to join the 301 bowling league.

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
BLDG. NO. _____	DEPT. _____
BOWLING AVERAGE _____	PHONE _____

Is THIS the Rank and File?



Here is James Thomas Fitzpatrick, who came to Schenectady from East Pittsburgh, Pa., to manage the phony "UE Rank and File" campaign for the outside group backing James B. Carey. He was photographed in his room at the Van Curler Hotel where he was master-minding until EU News exposed his presence. Wonder who paid for the cigars? Fitzpatrick checked out last Friday, it was reported, the day after the big flop of his "mass demonstration" and call for violence. Fitzpatrick is editor of the Union Generator of Westinghouse Local 601. He has worked only 12 hours in the Westinghouse plant since Jan. 31. To retain his seniority rights he obtained a personal leave of absence from the company in July until Oct. 7. It is very difficult for a plain worker get such a leave from the Westinghouse plant at East Pittsburgh.

More Donations Made To Singer Strike

The shop steward who turned in the most money during the past week for the Singer Sewing Company strikers was Charles E. Doherty, Building 52. He brought \$22.25 to the union office.

Next week Executive Board members will distribute to the stewards books of donation tickets issued by the UE strikers at the Elizabeth, N. J., Singer plant. They will be sold by the stewards. The grand prize will be an automobile.

301 Bowling League Announces Program

Plans for the 1949-1950 bowling season were made Wednesday at a meeting of the 301 bowling league at the union hall. A few vacancies still exist in all three divisions of the league, the men's, the women's and the mixed divisions.

The union bowlers are observing the city-wide strike against excessive rates and guarantees. As soon as the strike is over the following schedule will go into effect for first shift members:

Women's Division—9 p.m. every Friday at Mt. Pleasant Bowling Alleys.

Men's Division—8 p.m. every Wednesday at Broadway Recreation Palace.

Mixed Division—8 p.m. every Friday at Scotia Bowling Alleys. Second shift members will select their day and time at a later meeting. They will have a number of choices.

Third shift workers can bowl with either the first or second shifters.

Help Yourself by Helping The UE Singer Strikers.

Personal Letters Continued by GE

GE is continuing the personal approach as one of its many means of propaganda against its employees' hour, wage, and welfare demands.

A letter signed by Works Manager Lewis J. Male was sent to the workers on Sept. 7. It told them the old tale that the past wage increases had caused the cost-of-living to go up.

The truth is that the prices went up first, and would have gone up regardless, because the big manufacturers have simply charged all that the traffic will bear. Without the raises, the workers would have been much worse off. Now GE has said publicly that it could not pass increased labor costs on to the customer. This means that the costs of shorter hours and higher pay would have to come out of profits, thus increasing the purchasing power of the people.

And no amount of phony theories will change the fact that a 35-hour week with 40 hours' pay would force GE to employ many more people than on a 40-hour week.

The Male letter winds up in a typical trick question, as to whether the workers want "higher wages and higher prices or steady wages, steady production, and increased purchasing power?"

Of course that is not the choice. Unless purchasing power is increased through both shorter hours and higher pay, there can be neither steady wages nor steady production.

The Works News of Sept. 9 also quoted Male as saying employment had gone up in the Turbine Division since the new building was built. This was supposed, to answer the union's charge that the new building has been the base for the speed-up drive and lay-offs. It does not answer the charge at all. GE did not get more business because of the building. It built the building because of its greatly increased turbine business. It designed the building to make possible greater production per worker, and thereby make lay-offs possible.

Did You Know?

The General Electric Company spent \$9,285,160 in 1948 on newspaper advertising. We have been unable to find out just how much of it was spent on anti-UE ads.

EXTRA CONVENTION SUPPLEMENT

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 22 - By an overwhelming show of hands, the convention today defeated the efforts of the Carey group to deprive laid-off members of their membership rights.

The convention also called for the 30-hour week with 40 hours' pay.

The convention adopted the majority report of the constitution committee interpreting the constitution to provide that all unemployed members who maintain themselves in good standing in that local union by paying 10 cents a month dues are entitled to all rights in that local union, and the local union must recognize their rights.

Our delegate Brother White is a member of the constitution committee.

The Carey group's minority report would have left it to the by-laws of each local to determine the rights of unemployed members. Supporters of the re-elected national officers charged that Carey followers had deprived unemployed members of their rights in some locals. The Carey followers admitted this was true. They have discriminated against laid-off members by dropping members from the union as soon as laid-off; or by admitting unemployed members to meetings but without a voice or vote on all issues or on important issues.

The Carey group called the guarantee of laid-off members rights a "left-wing plot" to undermine their control of locals which they head.

Administration supporters declared that we must fight for the rights of the unemployed, and for improved unemployment insurance and for jobs, and cannot have second class citizens. Unemployed members must be kept in the union so they can fight together with the employed members to get more jobs, speakers said.

The 30 hour resolution directed the international officers to call on the rest of labor to join a vigorous fight for this proposal to provide jobs for the unemployed. Our delegate Brother Bill Stewart said:

"We can make this democracy come out ahead of anything else in the world by fighting for and winning the 30-hour week with 40 hours' pay and thereby helping to solve the unemployed problem."

IT LOOKS LIKE THE ARMORY THURSDAY FOR THE BIG MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 301 Executive Board yesterday (Thursday) unanimously decided to move the membership meeting from Tuesday, Sept. 27, to Thursday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 P.M. after it appeared that it would be possible to obtain the Armory for Thursday night.

The board set the second shift meeting for the same night, to start at 12:45 A.M. (Friday), at the end of the Thursday second shift, at the 301 hall.

Final arrangements will be advertised in the daily papers and on bulletin board notices.

uopwg-Local 70

FOR JOB SECURITY— 35 HOUR WEEK, HIGHER PAY