

GM Leads in \$\$\$; GE Not Far Behind

With contract negotiation time approaching, figures from Washington on defense contract awards make interesting reading.

General Motors Corp. led the pack of 100 largest contractors in winning 64% of the defense contracts awarded during the three years ended June 30, 1953, a Defense Dept. study revealed.

GM received \$7.1 billion worth of the government orders, \$1.8 billion of them since Charles E. Wilson, former president of the corporation, took over as defense secretary early in 1953.

Boeing Aircraft Co. was in second place with \$4.4 billion. Next came General Electric Co. with \$3.5 billion, Douglas Aircraft Co. with \$2.9 billion and United Aircraft Corp. with \$2.8 billion.

Defense contracts for the 3-year period totaled \$98.7 billion. During the first six months of 1953, contracts for \$18.4 billion were awarded, \$13 billion worth going to the largest 100 contractors.

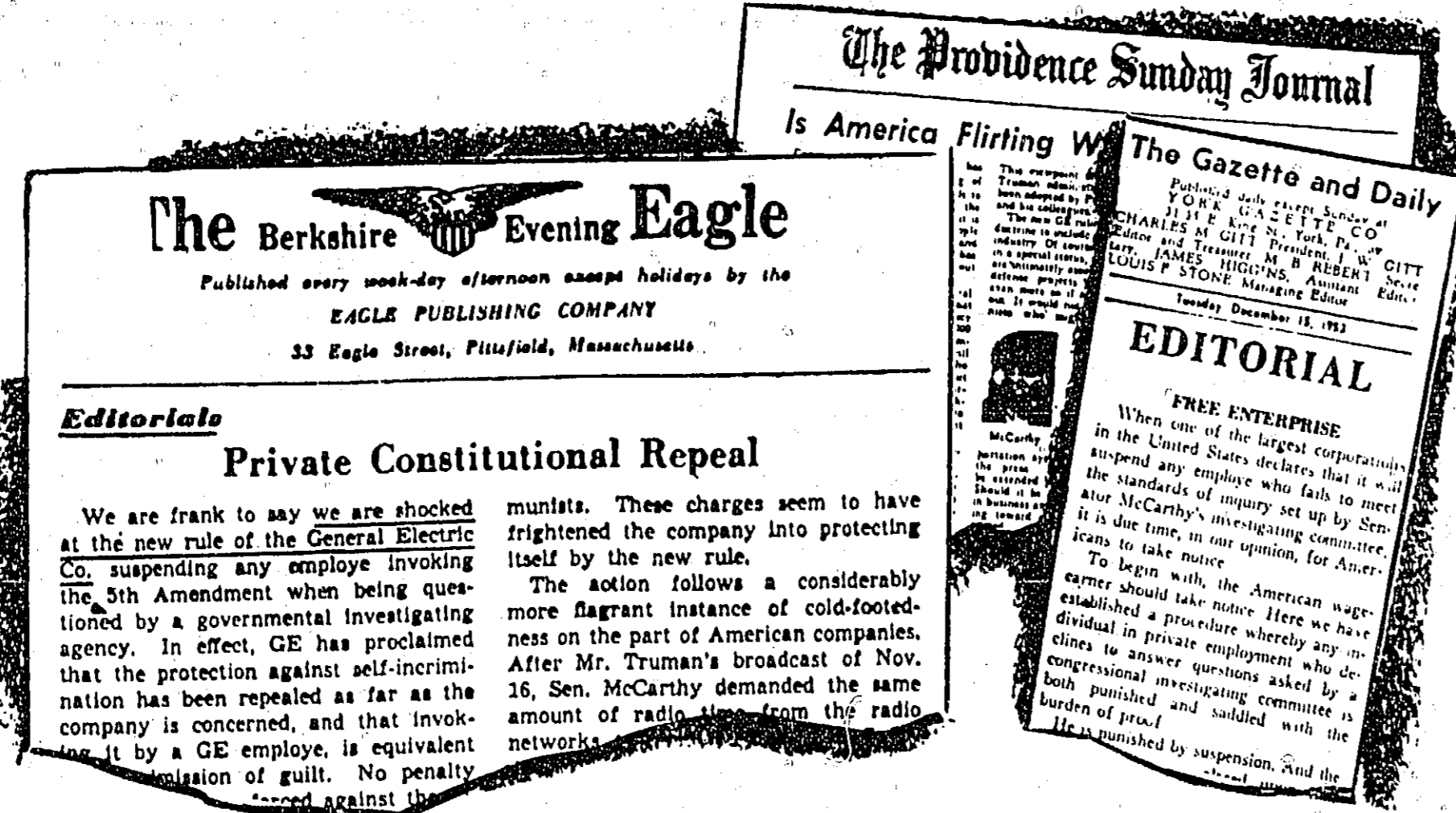
Local Cooperates With Heart Com.

As in past years, UE Local 301 is cooperating fully with the current campaign of the Schenectady County Heart Committee. In a communication to the Local, the Heart Committee states that Heart Night takes place on Thursday, Feb. 11, at Union College Memorial Chapel at 8 P.M.

The program will include a lecture by a leading cardiologist and a panel discussion in which several cardiologists, pediatricians and a physician-moderator will participate. Members of the audience will have the opportunity to submit written questions to the speakers. There will be no charge for admissions nor any request for donations.

Illness Is Costly To Working People

In one year, a national survey has revealed, illness cost the families of the United States \$10,200,000,000. It also put 8,000,000 families, or 16 per cent of the country's population, into debt to hospitals, physicians, dentists, loan companies and others. The survey was conducted by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago.



Many Newspapers Declare Opposition To GE's Un-American Labor Policy

Mounting resentment and opposition is being voiced throughout the nation against General Electric's new policy of bringing McCarthyism into its plants as a means of destroying unionism. As far south as Raleigh, North Carolina, the *News and Observer* describes GE's actions as "serious business." The *Des Moines Tribune* warns of "mass suspicion following the policy."

Some of the press comments follow:

"A serious business. (G.E.'s recent policy statement.) The Bill of Rights remains the most precious part of the American heritage. Any damage to any part of it is a damage also to freedom as Americans designed it and as Americans have understood it for nearly 200 years."

NEWS AND OBSERVER
Raleigh, N. C.
January 10, 1954

"When one of the largest corporations in the United States declares that it will suspend any employee who fails to meet the standards of inquiry set up by Senator McCarthy's investigating committee, it is due time, in our opinion, for Americans to take notice."

THE GAZETTE AND DAILY
York, Pa.
December 15, 1953

"We are frank to say we are shocked at the new rule of the General Electric Co. . . . What is the new Americanism, when invoking the document on which American liberties and the Amer-

ican nation itself are based is treated as admission of treason?"

BERKSHIRE EVENING EAGLE
Pittsfield, Mass.
December 11, 1953

"Bowling to Senator McCarthy, General Electric has announced that any of its 230,000 employees who refuse to answer questions about membership put to them by McCarthy will be suspended without pay and later fired if they fail to obtain clearance from a government agency. . . . The implications are obvious. Under the new requirements a certificate of loyalty has replaced the union card."

THE NATION
January 9, 1954

"The company's proposal could open the way for investigation and security checks of millions of private citizens—a practice that is bound to promote mass suspicion and distrust with serious consequences in a democracy."

DES MOINES TRIBUNE
Des Moines, Iowa
Dec. 14, 1953

"Senator McCarthy, in his spy-hunting, has promulgated in this country a fear of disagreeing with what is believed to be popular ideas. This quashing of dissent—the very factor that gave birth to this country and that has since been a keystone of its freedom—is a dangerous force to be operative."

"His hearings have been accompanied, too, by such actions as that of General Electric, which has said it will suspend any employee invoking the Fifth Amendment when being questioned by government investigators. Invoking a protection embodied in our Constitution in this case becomes cause for losing a job. The worker is guilty until he can prove himself innocent. . . ."

THE NEWS
Tonawanda, N. Y.
January 14, 1954

" . . . the vast electric company has now constituted itself a punitive and enforcement agency for the extra-judicial system which Senator McCarthy has carried out for himself."

PROVIDENCE SUNDAY JOURNAL
Providence, R. I.
December 13, 1953

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA U.E. LOCAL 301

Vol. 13 — No. 4

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, February 5, 1954



WASHINGTON—"We believe," CIO Pres. Walter P. Reuther told the Senate Labor Committee, "the President's message and the bill would make Taft-Hartley even worse than it is. The Administration has defaulted on the campaign promise to bring fairness to the law."

Tiffin, Ohio—About 25 start coil winders in the General Electric motor plant here have received a total of \$900 back pay as a result of grievances turned in on the rate since last July by their UE local. The Union based most of its arguments on the fact that the new heavy stator weighing 12½ pounds was excessive in weight and won an additional three cents or hundred pieces in the rate for additional back-hip motion necessary to lift the stator.

Whiting, Ind.—Hope for "a new international union" of all oil workers was expressed here by Pres. Sands of the unaffiliated Central States Petroleum Union on the eve of a joint convention in Philadelphia this month of oil unions of many different affiliations.

RIDGEWOOD, N. J.—J. Parnell Thomas, former chairman of the House un-American Committee, who was convicted of defrauding the government while a Republican congressman by padding his payroll and taking \$8,000 in kick-backs from the salaries of his staff, announced he will run again for Congress. He did 8½ months in the pen for his crookedness.

WASHINGTON—Even with its historical lag, the U.S. Labor Department listed 51 industrial areas as having substantial unemployment in a survey published Jan. 26.

ASK YOUR STEWARD
ABOUT U.E. LOCAL 301
OPTICAL PLAN

1,100 LAYOFFS IN SIX MONTHS

UE Meets With Company To Survey Job Prospects

With concern mounting throughout the Works over layoffs and rumored layoffs, UE Local 301's officers met with Works Manager A. C. Stevens and his assistant, F. H. MacIntosh, on Wednesday, January 27, to seek specific information on what the company's job outlook is for the remainder of the year.

The officers met with management two days after the Local 301 Executive Board had mapped a fighting job program to protect the job rights of Schenectady GE workers.

While the picture painted by management indicates that Schenectady workers are fortunate not to have been hit as hard as workers elsewhere in the country, '301' officers warned that Schenectady cannot continue to be immune if unemployment keeps growing throughout the country as it has the past few months.

Management told '301' officers that 550 workers had been laid off from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1953, with another 400 laid off in January and an estimated additional 148 in February.

Union officers asked specific information about rumored layoffs, including GE Pres. Ralph J. Cordiner's statement some months ago that he anticipated reducing the work force by 10,000 in Schenectady.

Stevens and MacIntosh said: "Nobody is going to be displaced because of jobs moving out." In fact, they said they expected some hiring-back to begin on March 1. They attributed their estimate to what they called "attrition" in the work force caused by such factors as deaths, normal quits, military

(Continued on page 2)

Govt. Says Over 2 Million Jobless; Labor Says It's Over 4 Million

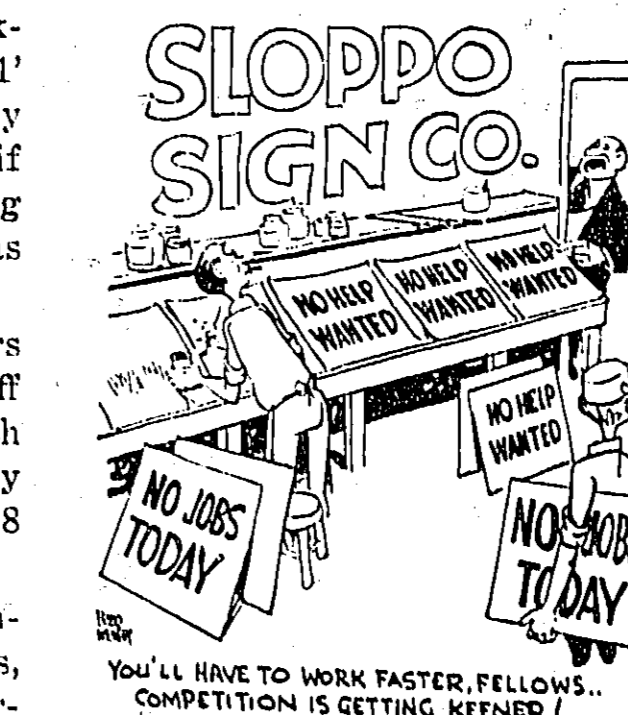
Census Bureau figures released Jan. 29 listed 2,359,000 U. S. workers as unemployed during the week ended Jan. 9, an increase of almost a half million over the December figure.

Employment, the Bureau said, dropped one million from the December figure to 59.8 million.

Labor economists, AFL, CIO and independent, estimate the Census Bureau unemployment figures are at least two million short of actual joblessness. This appeared to be borne out by the bureau's action in adding 236,000 to the number of persons not in the labor force in January as compared with December.

The extent to which the "those not in the labor force" classification is used to hide actual unemployment is illustrated by the fact that the Census Bureau shows the labor force in January, 1953, at 62,700,000, which is 563,000 larger than the figure given for January, 1954. Normally, the labor force increases 700,000 a year.

The AFL's executive council, meeting in Miami Beach, Fla., this past week, stated that without considering what should have been a normal increase in the work force, the number of jobs has declined from June to January by 3,350,000—or that one out of every 20 persons has lost his job.



They're the Tops

Top attendance at the stewards meetings held last Monday was chalked up by divisions headed by Executive Board members Frank D'Amico and Vincent Paluzske. In a division by division check taken at the meetings, Paluzske's section hit the 100 percent mark with 13 out of the 13 stewards present, while D'Amico's stewards scored a close second with 10 out of 11 present.



POLITICS IS BREAD AND BUTTER: That was the theme of the Legislative Conference attended by 80 delegates from UE Locals held by UE Districts 3 and 4 on Saturday, Jan. 30 in New York City. UE Local 301's Legislative Committee is seen above at conference. Allen E. Townsend, 46, is seen second from left in front row, while William Stewart, 27, chairman, is seen in back third from left, together with James De Maseo, 49; Larry Gebro, 27 and Frank D'Amico, 40. Story is on page 4.

UE ON THE JOB!

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.

Bldg. 16: H. Craven and F. Urbaspection. They want the practice stopped at once.

Tinsmith second shifters demand another attendant in stockroom, based on number of workers employed, and past and present complaints about shortages and misplacement of materials. Foreman now serving as storeroom keeper, a bargaining unit job, with helpers doing porter work and not learning the trade.

Third shift group, including vertical, drill press, winders, protest inadequate crane service. There's no five ton crane, though same number at work as on first and second shifts.

A group charges that a job has been combined and pays same as when a separate job. They want a changed classification with a four

Dept. 17: Charles E. Spatz demands job rate of \$1.64 after one week of training since he was doing the full job one week after his transfer to it as a material handler.

Dept. 23: Russell De Grazio, electrician helper three years, and Anthony Riano, 6½ years, charge violation of agreement on upgrading. They claim their foreman has no basis for refusing upgrading and threatening to send them to Bldg. One on the basis of the work they have performed in past.

Bldg. 40: Edward Martin, Sr., classified as material handler, is now performing painter's duties. He demands to be reclassified to Painter Apparatus Class B, with an adjustment in rate.

Bldg. 49: W. B. Lansing protests reduction of price from \$6 to \$4.50 and demands negotiations for a fair price.

R. Niedzwicki, 13½ years service, wants an investigation of order he goes on day shift when an operator with three years service on same job remains on second shift, though he wants first shift.

A group of VBM operators protest violation of contract, article VI-5-(d) and (e) on first stage nozzle.

A group protests inadequate price on their job and excessive amount of day work.

Dept. 52: A group protests inadequate P.W. price on inner section plates and demand an additional \$6.50 to the \$78.50 price.

A group protests inadequate P. W. price on vest, hood and demand an additional \$28 to the \$96.50 price. They want to see the breakdown and job planning to arrive at correct price.

Bldg. 60: A group of hand screw machine operators protest having to inspect their own work. Previously inspectors handled all pieces produced, but now only a percentage. The group feels it's done to create layoffs and cut down in in-

by worker retiring has not been filled and that it be filled with Class B man and wants investigation why there are not more Class A men on first shift.

Roy Bassler, Jr., classified as milling machine operator, \$2.25 AER, demands proper reclassification to horizontal boring mill operator, \$2.48 AER.

Paul Hacko demands following unsafe conditions on job be corrected: Exeiter materials in D-28 piled unsafely, stub shaft lifting bar in dangerous location and 30 crane in D-28 is in unsafe condition.

J. Mashuta and N. Capozzelli, welders hand are, demand upgrading because they have been used on higher rated work. They demand halt to using lower rated men on higher class work, as previously agreed with management.

Robert Kovarovic, Class B lathe operator, demands upgrading to Class A based on his seniority, experience and performance.

A group demands correction of foreman's attitude that caused a worker to get broken finger when he insisted that this group remove hand cooler plates from a stator frame. It was an unsafe job and crane was already on the way.

Bldg. 285: James White, Class B checker, performs work beyond present classification and demands an evaluation with an adjustment in rate.

Richard Olkowsky, toolmaker Class B, demands a change in classification based on his skill, knowledge and job content. He demands reclassification to A with adjustment in rate.

A group of C packers demands

service, changes to different units, retirements on pensions, etc.

Meanwhile, the newly established '301' Placement Committee had swung into action to handle the great movement now going on in the Works from slack to busy divisions. This Committee, composed of Vice Pres. Joseph Alois, Treas. Joseph Whitbeck and William Christman, Board member, is now meeting twice a week with designated management representatives to see that UE seniority provisions are strictly enforced on all such moves.

Another factor that is hitting pay checks is the virtual disappearance of overtime in the plant. Also, some workers in transferring to other departments have been compelled to take lower paying jobs.

Union officers declared after the meeting with management the

payment for crane lifts in accordance with P.W. table.

CAP: Raymond Titcomb, tool crib attendant Class C, performed duties of an ill Class A tool crib operator and accumulated approximately 280 hours. He demands compensation for performing full A duties during this period.

There's a catch to it—but since it was passed unanimously, the stewards themselves are satisfied. To qualify for the banquet a steward has to have an attendance record at steward meetings during the year of eight out of 10.

Also, liberalize the continuity of service policy, improvements on overtime premiums for continuous process operators, 10 days sick leave with pay, three days with pay for death in immediate family, company pay all lost time for settling grievances, upgrading to high-

er rated jobs by seniority, including sex in no discrimination provision, permit distribution of Union literature at all company gates, notice to be given by foremen in writing when increase in rate is agreed upon and second shift to be paid on Thursday night.

Also, eliminate geographical differentials, eliminate discriminatory rates because of sex, a shorter work week, special increases for skilled and dayworkers, improvements on incentive safeguards, transfer rates to be increased, eliminate arbitrary transferring of work to other plants, grievance improvement to give more authority to plant management to settle grievances under decentralization program, improved seniority provision, call in and report time improved, and more current and adequate information on job classifications and changes.

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Steward Classes Begin Feb. 15

School Days are just around the corner for Local 301's shop stewards.

The annual series of stewards classes are due to begin the week of Feb. 15, it was announced this week.

Every year at these classes, stewards go over the UE contract point-by-point, review the policy and constitution of the Union and learn their responsibilities as elected representatives of the people in their departments.

Stewards will be notified by letter next week of the exact date their classes will take place.

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New Stewards

Newly elected stewards to fill vacancies were sworn in at the '301' Stewards meetings held last Monday.

New second shift stewards include: William Ceely, 49; Antonio Piscitelli, 22; Donald Gates, 49; Alfred A. Fagan, Knolls Research Lab; George Schulz, 50; Angelina Palleschi, 36.

New stewards sworn at the first shift meeting included: Charles De Lallo, 85; Stanley Linder, 273; Richard Monette, 273; C. E. Kazmierczak, 53-1; D. J. Harris, 273; Alfred P. Deere, 273; Dominic Cardella, 60; Alice Crowningshield, 28-3; Gladys Chamberlain, 28-3; Harold Crist, 84; John Witowski, 52, and Harold S. Rollins, 15-17-19 (third shift).

Good Attendance Rates Banquet for Stewards

What's a steward got to look forward to at the end of a year's hard work?

Local 301's stewards came up with one answer at their meetings held last Monday at the Union Hall. They voted to continue the practice they voted for the last year of having a banquet for stewards at the end of the year.

There's a catch to it—but since it was passed unanimously, the stewards themselves are satisfied. To qualify for the banquet a steward has to have an attendance record at steward meetings during the year of eight out of 10.

Signs of The Times

Estimated steel production for the week beginning Jan. 18 was 74.3 percent of capacity, as against 90.7 of capacity last year.

Local 301 Standing Committees for 1954 Announced

Standing committees for handling many important functions and activities of UE Local 301 during the year of 1954 were approved by stewards at their meetings held last Monday.

The various committees appointed included:

Constitution Committee: Anthony Esposito, 53; Stanley Aldhous, 49; Anthony Campriello, 52; George Quick, 14; William Kelly, 273; Frank Emspak, 46 and Fay Hildreth, 59.

Legislative Committee: The whole executive board, with the following sub-committee: William Stewart, 273, chairman; James De Masseo, 49; Frank D'Amico, 40; Allen E. Townsend, 46 and Larry Gebro, 273.

Finance Committee: Joseph Whitbeck, 53; Miles G. Moon, 40 and Marshall White, '301' office manager.

UE-GE Conference Board Meets To Draft Demands

A two day meeting of the UE-GE Conference Board begins this morning in New York City, with all Local 301 officers on hand to participate in drawing up recommendations to UE Locals and demands to be submitted to GE in accordance with the reopening clause in the UE national agreement.

Local 301's proposals, adopted at the January membership meeting, will be presented to the Conference Board. They include:

A substantial wage increase, additional holidays regardless of what day they fall on—with elimination of day before and day after qualifications, additional vacation time—four weeks for 20 years and additional days between five and 10 years, improved pension—with a lowered age and not including Social Security in minimum and an improved health and hospitalization plan — with the company paying for all of it.

Also, eliminate geographical differentials, eliminate discriminatory rates because of sex, a shorter work week, special increases for skilled and dayworkers, improvements on incentive safeguards, transfer rates to be increased, eliminate arbitrary transferring of work to other plants, grievance improvement to give more authority to plant management to settle grievances under decentralization program, improved seniority provision, call in and report time improved, and more current and adequate information on job classifications and changes.

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N. Y. Compensation Rates Lower Than Other States

BY LEON NOVAK
UE Local 301 Attorney

At the insistence of New York employers, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey has appointed a commission to investigate the reasons why the cost of compensation paid to injured workers is, according to employers, the highest of any state in the country.

Of course, while this investigation is going on, no employer is bothering to point out that the benefits paid to injured workers in some other states are actually higher than those paid in New York, supposedly the wealthiest state in the country.

In New York, the highest rate for an injured worker is \$32 a week while he is unable to work. The rate can be even lower, depending on his wages. The minimum rate for a worker who is totally disabled from work, due to an accident, is \$12.

New York benefit rates are behind the rates of such states as Connecticut, which has a maximum rate of \$36. In Washington, D. C. the maximum is \$35. In Florida, the maximum is \$35.

In Hawaii, an unmarried worker can get a maximum of \$35, with a married worker able to get up to

\$46.15 if he has children. The State of Washington has the same maximum. In Idaho, an injured worker with children can get up to \$37, in Illinois and Michigan up to \$34 and Oregon up to \$40 a week.

In Massachusetts, the rate is \$30—plus \$2.50 for every additional dependent, so that a worker with many children can possible receive as much as his actual wages in compensation.

It is true, of course, that New York provides other benefits that in some instances may be an improvement over some of the states mentioned. But certainly New York ought to be able to match any state as to rates.

Of course, it is not expected that Gov. Dewey's commission will go into such matters—unless the labor unions engage in joint action to increase benefits, instead of permitting them to be threatened by this latest employers' move.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)

Local 301

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