

## \$1,245 More Awarded Worker Against GE

An additional award of \$1,245 was made to Salvatore Guigno recently by a Workmen's Compensation referee for injuries to his right hand in an accident Nov. 26, 1946. This brings his total award against GE to \$4,500 for 50 per cent loss of the use of the hand. The loss had previously been estimated at 33-1/3 per cent. The case is one reopened by the Local 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin.

Other awards made recently include:

\$525 to Edward Kaszuba for 25 per cent loss of the use of his right thumb in an accident Feb. 17.

\$105 to Frank Holton, grinder in Bldg. 40, for 15 per cent loss of the use of his right ring finger in an accident May 4.

\$525 to Genevieve Herries, Bldg. 69 punch press operator, for 25 per cent loss of the use of her left thumb in an accident May 7.

\$100 to Donald Brizze, Bldg. 57 molder, for facial disfigurement in an accident Mar. 26.

\$28 a week to Franz Raeder from Sept. 14 to Nov. 8 for a hernia suffered May 27.

Awards for reduced earnings to Stephen Kmetz for back and leg injuries suffered Jan. 14, 1945, \$4.83 a week from May 7 to June 11 and \$1.23 a week from June 11 to Nov. 8.

\$28 a week to Michael Iafrate, laborer in Building 68, from July 7 to Sept. 7 (less two days worked) for a hernia resulting from an accident June 25.

\$20.79 a week reduced earnings to Jerry Suburro from May 10 to Aug. 8 and \$16.88 a week for partial disability from Sept. 13 to Nov. 8 and to continue for two months at the same rate. The awards were in connection with a back sprain which Suburro, a Bldg. 79 varnish maker, suffered June 19, 1943.

\$30.73 a week to Marion Porter, Bldg. 53 assembly worker, from July 15 to Sept. 15 for fracture of a foot bone July 15. She is to be re-examined in four months.

\$28 a week to Nicholas Rossi, Bldg. 69 drill press operator, from May 25 to Aug. 18. A ruling will be made later on partial disability after Aug. 18. His back was strained Jan. 20.

Weekly compensation to Elsie Lynch, Bldg. 53 spot welder who suffered a back sprain June 13, 1946. The latest awards were \$13.57 a week from Sept. 10 to Oct. 11 and \$27.13 a week from Oct. 11 to Nov. 8 and for two more months.

BUILD THE UNION

## New Shop Stewards Line Up for Union Duty



George Walker, Local 301 guide, at extreme left, administering the oath of office to recently elected shop stewards at the Nov. 16 membership meeting. Front row, left to right, Charles Gibson, Building 16; Arthur Chevalier, Bldg. 46; Robert Jerome, Bldg. 109; Edward Crosthwait, Peck St.; Stephen Van Allen, Bldg. 42; Edith McCarter, Bldg. 26, and Morton Lewis, Bldg. 46. Rear, Richard Snyder, Bldg. 60; Hugh McMullen, Bldg. 65; Fred Barber, Bldg. 273; Harold Rollins, Bldg. 17, and Dante De Cesare, Bldg. 50.

## Elmira UE Board Prints Ad on GE

The management of the Elmira GE foundry was accused this week by Elmira UE leaders of ignoring the facts about silicosis there "in order to make a propaganda football out of a serious health menace."

The UE Local 310 Executive Board made the charge in an open letter to the foundry manager printed as an advertisement in Elmira newspapers.

"In the company paper you admit that there have been silicosis cases but deny that there are as many cases as an impartial medical expert found," the letter said.

"Maybe the company doctor will disagree on the number of cases. We would expect him to. The more cases reported, the higher the company's insurance costs because GE is self-insured.

"You say conditions have been improved. They have—under union pressure. But they have not been improved enough. . . .

"You say that UE started this campaign because the Kersten Committee attacked the union. Kersten came to Schenectady in October; the X-ray machine came to Elmira in June."

An investigation launched by the union has revealed 90 silicosis cases at Elmira GE.

## Gaeth Program

Tune in on the Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, at 10 p.m. Monday on WXXW, Albany (850 on your dial).

## Gazette Prints Only Part Of Jandreau's Statement

Wednesday of last week, at the request of the Gazette, Business Agent Leo Jandreau gave that paper a statement on the conduct of the membership meeting which nominated officers and elected the election committee. Jandreau's statement referred only to the Gazette's own story of that morning. The Gazette on Thursday quoted parts of Jandreau's statement. It did not print the following:

"Contrary to the Gazette story, the members in the rear room participated in the nominations and cast ballots in the election of the election committee.

"We shall make no comment in the outside press as to the conduct of various groups within the union. That is internal union business."

Both the Gazette and the Union-Star carried on into Friday their lengthy, prominently displayed stories, repeating previous falsehoods about the membership meeting.

## Now It Seems Profits Are Pure Imagination

Employers have a new alibi for their huge profits.

According to J. H. Landman, tax expert, high profits of corporations are just "illusory and unreal."

Landman told a meeting of the New York chapter, National Association of Cost Accountants, that since profits are really "phantom", labor shouldn't count on higher wages or the public shouldn't count on lower prices.

## GE Hotpoint Workers Reject IAM in Vote

The International Association of Machinists, which is trying to raid Local 301 by advertisements directed to Peck St. workers, was turned down in elections this year by the workers at GE Hotpoint plants in Milwaukee and Chicago. They were familiar with the way IAM operates.

IAM attempted to organize both plants (neither of them UE) this year and petitioned for Taft-Hartley elections. No other union was on the ballot. The workers voted "No" on the question of whether they wanted to be represented by IAM. The Chicago election was in June and the Milwaukee one in July.

The Milwaukee Hotpoint plant is in the same building with GE X-ray, a company affiliated with GE. For some time IAM has been bargaining for the X-ray employees. The Milwaukee Hotpoint workers were thoroughly familiar with the way IAM "represented" people, and wanted none of it.

Years ago IAM used to have considerable membership at the Schenectady GE plant. It lost out completely here and wasn't in the picture when UE started organizing 15 years ago.

## Strike Averted

On the eve of a strike by UE Local 763, the Neon Products Company at Lima, Ohio, agreed to wage increases of eight to 11 cents an hour.

# VOTE IN 301 ELECTION!

## ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 . . . U. E. R. & M. W. A. . . . C. I. O.

Vol. 6 — No. 48

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

December 2, 1948

## Second Shift Stages Party After Midnight



When most of Schenectady was sleeping, these second shift workers came to Local 301 hall after they finished work at midnight last Friday for a special section night program. More than 150 turned out for the party.

## Union Finds Symptoms Of Mercury Poisoning

An investigation by Local 301 of health and working conditions in the mercury power station, Building 265, has revealed that workers are exposed to extreme danger there.

The union learned this week, through clinical and laboratory tests it arranged for members, that 11 of the 30 workers in close contact with mercury have symptoms of mercury poisoning.

Mercury poisoning in one of these cases had already been established through a Workmen's Compensation claim, handled by the union's attorney. The General Electric Company was held liable by the state referee for the loss of the worker's teeth and is liable for any further disability in connection with the case.

The company has relaxed certain rules that used to govern the handling of mercury, the union learned. Workers complain that there is an excessive amount of free mercury in the air.

The union will take immediate steps to see that the company corrects working conditions and removes health hazards in the mercury station. It will insist that GE make adequate provision for workers who have developed mercury poisoning in their jobs.

At intervals GE has given tests to the mercury workers, but the results have not been revealed to them, as far as the union knows.

## Be Sure to Vote

The officers of Local 301 urge all members to cast their vote in the annual election today and tomorrow.

If all members will participate in the union's activities, and particularly in such major actions as the election of officers, then the UE will continue to be run by the membership. It is a mighty small sacrifice for every member to find the brief time necessary to vote.

How you vote is your business. But vote.

Andrew Peterson, president  
William G. Hodges, vice-pres.  
Helen Quirini, rec. sec.  
Alfred J. Polrah, ass't. rec. sec.  
Marshall White, treas.  
William Mastriani,  
chief shop steward  
Leo Jandreau, business agent

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## State Declares GE Wrong on Pay Day

The State Department of Labor has informed Local 301 that in its opinion the union is correct in its charge that the General Electric Company violated the state labor law in its recent pay day change.

GE has been summoned to appear in Schenectady Police Court tomorrow morning by Police Justice Charles G. Fryer, on an information filed by five workers in Bldg. 73 whose pay day was postponed from Friday to Monday.

The statement to the union from the Labor Department declared that for a work week starting on Monday, Oct. 4, a worker must be paid not later than Saturday, Oct. 10. Under the new GE policy he wouldn't be paid until Monday, Oct. 18.

In view of the fact that banks aren't open Saturday and that GE pays by check, the union feels that GE is obliged to pay on Friday.

The union filed a complaint with the State Labor Department against GE. Pending state action the Police Court action was started.

VOTE IN THE 301 ELECTION

## Union Voting Starts Today At 301 Hall

Voting for next year's officers of Local 301 will start at noon today (Thursday) and continue through 6 p.m. tomorrow at the union hall, Liberty St. and Erie Blvd. The Election Committee has obtained 12 voting machines from the city.

County Election Commissioner Charles W. Eckel, at the invitation of the 301 Election Committee, will be present at the opening and closing of the polls and will check on the way the voting is conducted during the 30 hour period. The Election Committee has notified each presidential candidate he can have three, instead of two, watchers present throughout the voting. Copies of the election rules were sent to every candidate.

All union members in good standing as of Nov. 12, the date of the latest check-off, are eligible to vote.

Draw for Positions

Representatives of the three slates of candidates drew lots Nov. 24 for their positions on the voting machine. The drawing took place at a meeting of the Election Committee at the union hall and was conducted by Commissioner Eckel.

Names are to appear in the following order:

Row A. President, Andrew Peterson; vice-president, William G. Hodges; recording secretary, Helen Quirini; assistant recording secretary, Thelma Willey Tiscione; treasurer, Marshall White; chief shop steward, Billy Mastriani; business agent, Leo Jandreau; trustees, George Quick, John R. Boyd and Albert E. Davis; sergeant-at-arms, Harmon Cartwright; guide, George A. Walker.

Row B. President, Stanley L. Fisher; recording secretary, John E. Briggs.

Row C. President, Frank C. Kriss; vice-president, Martin J. Stanton; recording secretary, Frank Fiorillo; assistant recording secretary, John P. Green; treas-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Kersten Charges Being Dropped

The Hartley Labor Committee of the House of Representatives has decided to drop contempt of Congress charges against UE members and other individuals who refused to answer questions about their political beliefs, according to newspaper reports.

Stories last week from Washington stated the decision not to press the contempt actions was made on recommendation of the Department of Justice.

After Congressman Charles J. Kersten of Wisconsin and O. Clark Fischer of Texas, members of the Hartley Committee, staged their "investigation" of Local 301 two months ago, they threatened to cite 11 officers, members and former members of 301 for contempt.

The dropping of the contempt actions bears out the statement made by Andrew Peterson, 301 president, and Leo Jandreau, business agent, Oct. 1.

Calling the contempt threat "an act of petty spite and revenge," the union officers declared that Kersten and Fischer "have no possible legal basis for their threat. Every officer and member they threaten acted completely within his rights, and the Congressmen know it."

Kersten was defeated for reelection to Congress by a united labor campaign led by UE locals.

## Hiding Real Issue

The General Electric Company recently devoted a full page in the Works News to the question: "What is Communism? What is Capitalism?"

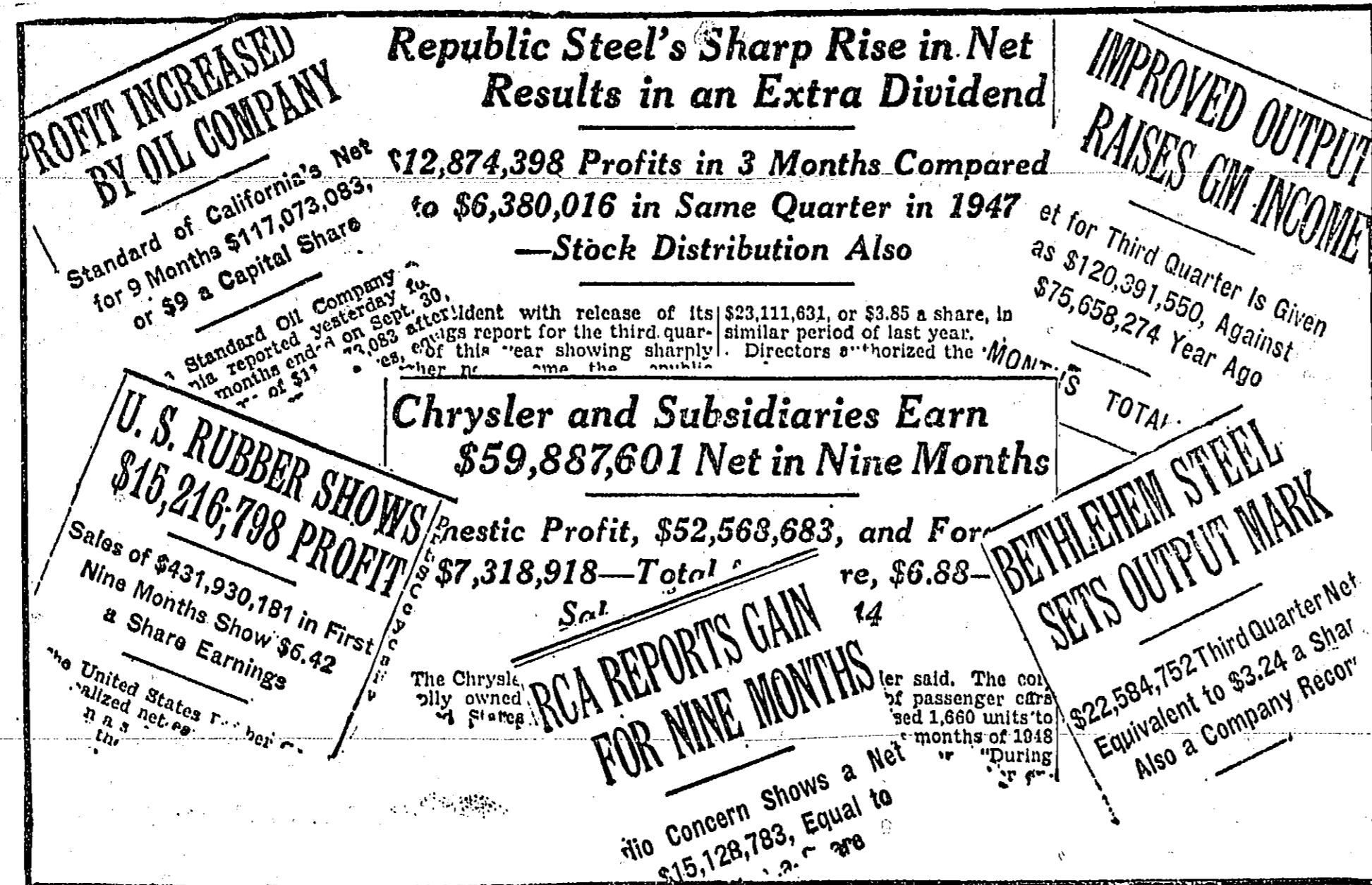
As GE well knows, the issue facing the working people of this country today is not communism versus capitalism. The issue is whether the interests of the people at large will be served as in the days of the New Deal or whether the special interests of Big Business will be given first consideration as in the days of the "boom-and-bust" Harding-Coolidge-Hoover era.

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## Big Business Piles Up Biggest Profits Yet



Buried in the financial pages and lost in the excitement of the elections was the news of record-breaking profits piled up by big corporations (including GE) in the first nine months of 1948. GE made 34 per cent greater profit in the January through September period this year than it did in 1947, and the 1947 figure was the highest on record.

## Union Voting Starts Today

(Continued from Page 1)

urer, William A. Downs; chief shop steward, Stephen A. Watts; business agent, Raymond D. Flanigan; trustees, Ralph Mirando and Edward A. Lubarda; sergeant-at-arms, Harmon Cartwright; guide, Stephen E. James.

Before the drawing took place the Election Committee accepted written declinations from Michael Gergerek, nominated for treasurer; David Bambury, nominated for trustee, and Frank D. Civitello, nominated for sergeant-at-arms. They had previously filed written acceptances, as reported in last week's EU News.

Morton F. Lewis, chairman of the Election Committee, has announced that all parking space in Erie Blvd. and Wall St. outside the union office will be reserved for union members during the hours the polls are open.

## 301 Attorney's Hours

Members of Local 301 can consult the union's lawyer, Marshall Perlin, at the union office every Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. He is available by appointment at other times also, when Compensation Court sessions and other duties connected with his legal work for the union permit.

## They Signed Affidavits, But Still Had to Strike

Signing Taft-Hartley affidavits is no protection against employers who are out to bust your union, 15,000 CIO Oil Workers have discovered on the West Coast. They are in their second month of a strike.

Although the union has dropped its wage demands to the amount originally offered by the companies, no settlement is in sight. The oil trusts are using every Taft-Hartley trick to smash the union.

Damage suits adding up to more than \$30 million and increasing at the rate of \$500,000 for each day the strike continues confront the union. 400 union officials and rank-and-file strikers face contempt-of-court fines and jail sentences.

The companies have been able to secure the services of hundreds of armed police to help them break through the picket lines and escort seabs to work.

## Strike Victory

A two-week UE strike at Bijur Lubricating Company, Bennington, Vt., ended with a wage increase of 12½ cents an hour as of Nov. 1. An additional 2½ cents will be paid May 1.

BE SURE TO VOTE  
IN THE 301 ELECTION

## Are We Headed For Depression?

In the past 160 years of this country's history there have been 35 business cycles. In almost every case these took place when prices, profits and business confidence were at high levels just as at present.

What are the economic symptoms pointing to a depression?

Consumer prices in August were at the record level of 175% above the 1935-39 average.

Corporation profits before taxes, on an annual basis, rose from \$24.7 billion in the first quarter of 1948 to \$30.9 billion in the second quarter.

Real wages per worker has dropped 16 percent since 1944.

Retail sales are falling off in such consumer goods as textiles, men's wool apparel, shoes, radio, and small electric appliances.

Inventories have reached the record level of \$52 billion.

In the past, military expenditures have served to prop up production. But it is widely recognized that even substantial boosts in military spending will not prevent the consumer goods industries from sagging while they will keep prices and profits going up and workers' buying power going down.

## GE Told to Restore Strikers' Seniority

After a long delay, the Taft-Hartley Board last week ruled that the General Electric Company must restore to the seniority records of employees the nine weeks lopped off for taking part in the UE strike in 1946.

Even the Taft-Hartley Board could not avoid recognizing that GE discriminated against the strikers by reducing their seniority. The Board stated that its order "necessarily includes reinstatement with back pay if any lay-offs have been effected on the basis of discriminatorily reduced relative seniority." But as virtually all GE production workers participated in the strike, the decision can affect the present job status of very few people.

The Taft-Hartley Board cancelled out most of the value of the decision by ruling that GE need not include the strike period in figuring vacation and pension rights.

The question of filing Taft-Hartley affidavits was not involved in any way in this case. There was absolutely no basis for the rumor spread during the past year that the Board would not or could not act in the case because UE, like the Steelworkers, Mine Workers and Typographical Union, has boycotted Taft-Hartley procedures.

UE filed the charges against GE more than two years ago with the old Labor Relations Board under the Wagner Act. The Taft-Hartley Board inherited the case when it took over in 1947. In the spring of 1947 the trial examiner who heard the testimony handed down an intermediate report finding GE guilty of discrimination in regard to vacations and pensions, as well as seniority.

GE and General Counsel Robert Denham of the Taft-Hartley Board appealed this decision to the Board. After "sitting on the case" for over a year, the Board finally reversed the trial examiner on vacations and pensions. But it issued an order directing GE to restore the nine weeks to seniority records for purposes of lay-offs, transfers and re-hiring with back pay. The company also was directed to post notices for 60 days in all UE plants declaring it will not discriminate against workers for union membership and that it will restore all strikers' seniority records.

Under the Wagner Act the Board could not have found a loop-hole to let GE escape from paying full vacation and pension benefits. But the Taft-Hartley law is filled with neat arrangements to protect companies and harm unions and their members.

## Building 60 Experts Have Pinochle Session

The four pinochle players and the kibitzer were photographed at the section night Nov. 22 for Building 60 members. There were some other card games, darts, ping pong and refreshments after a brief discussion of union and shop problems.



## \$500 Back Pay Won For Worker by 301

As the result of a union grievance case, GE management agreed last week to give an inspector in Building 273 about \$500 in retroactive pay to make up for paying him at the wrong rate since he was hired in September, 1947. He is to be raised immediately to the correct rate.

Although the worker had had 22 years of inspection experience elsewhere, the company started him four steps below the job rate. According to the UE contract an experienced person should be started only two steps below the rate.

At a grievance session Nov. 24 A. C. Stevens and Frank Schaaff agreed that the man's experience should not have been ignored. They said the company would pay him 10 cents an hour more, retroactive to his hiring, and additional pay to cover three five-cent steps which he missed.

## Reelected by CIO



President Albert J. Fitzgerald of UE was reelected as one of the nine vice-presidents of the national CIO at the convention last week at Portland, Ore. Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak of UE, a member of Local 301, was reelected to the executive board.

## 301 Children's Party Planned for Dec. 19

The 301 Christmas party for children of union members this year will be the biggest and best ever, according to plans of the Activities Committee. It's scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at 301 hall.

Entertainment will include movies, a magician's show and a visit from Santa Claus, with a gift bag for every child. Each gift bag will contain a surprise, in addition to candy, fruit and nuts.

Tickets to the party will be free and will be distributed through shop stewards. Union members in each group should immediately tell their steward how many tickets they will need for their youngsters, so that the Activities Committee can know what the attendance will be. Children will have to show their tickets at the door.

Because the party will be on a bigger scale than ever before, expenses are expected to come to about \$1,300. To meet this cost, the Activities Committee will conduct a drawing for a television set. This prize will be awarded at a 301 dance Saturday night, Dec. 18, at the union hall. Books of donation tickets will be sold through the shop stewards to people interested in winning the television set and supporting the children's Christmas party. These donation tickets, selling at 25 cents apiece or five for a dollar, also entitle the purchasers to admission to the dance.

## \$20 Donation

The Local 301 Board voted \$20 Monday night to the benefit fund of Rhoda Lawrence Tent, Daughters of Union Veterans.

## GE Tries to Stop Pension Arbitration

The General Electric Company has asked for a New York State Supreme Court order to stop UE from taking a pension case to arbitration. Arguments will be heard Tuesday.

The union wants arbitration of the company's refusal to credit workers with pension benefits for time spent on union business. The UE-GE contract provides there is to be no discrimination because of union activity. By cutting pension credits of workers engaged in union business the company is discriminating against them, the union charges.

The grievance originated with Lynn Local 201, but the principle concerns every GE local.

GE has lost two arbitration cases in the past year. Both times it went to court to try to get the arbitrators' rulings overturned. This time it is trying to prevent an arbitrator from even hearing the facts.

The company claims that the pension issue is not subject to arbitration. It doesn't even want an arbitrator to rule on whether or not the case should be arbitrated. The contract provides for arbitration of clauses on which there is disagreement as to interpretation.

## Blood Donors

The Executive Board Monday night voted that union members should be paid for time lost while donating blood to the 301 blood bank. Arrangements for the lost time payments must be made with the union office.

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS