

Matles Describes Gang-up on UE

The workers in the electrical industry are faced with "a supreme effort by a combination of employers, reactionary politicians, CIO leaders and former fifth columnists in UE, trying to do a job on this union," the Local 301 shop stewards were told last week by James J. Matles, UE director of organization.

"There is one difference now," Matles added. "In the past nine years these fifth columnists and CIO officers said they were for UE. Now they're on the other side where there is no trouble identifying them. We've finally got them above ground."

Pointing out that the members must learn to disregard newspaper headlines, Matles told how the previous Friday he was in Philadelphia when he read a newspaper headline saying he had been run out of East Pittsburgh. He did not reach East Pittsburgh until Sunday, two days later, and then he addressed a successful meeting of 1,000 members.

Murray Refused Joint Action

Here are a few excerpts from Matles' address to the stewards:

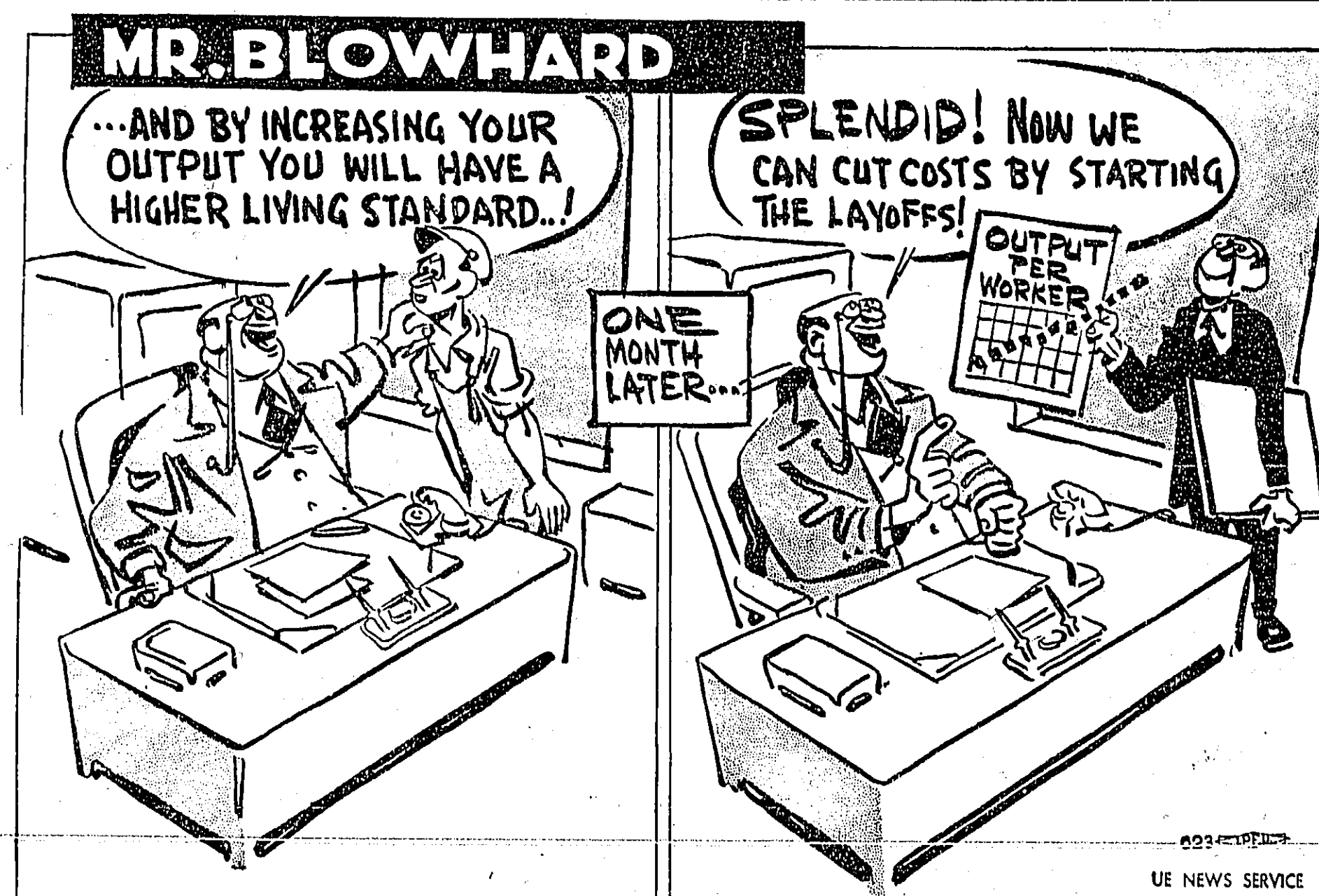
"Last spring we went to see Murray and Reuther to try to get together in negotiations with our major companies. The meeting was set for 10:30 in the morning. At 10:30 we were told to wait till 1 o'clock. At 1 we were told to wait till 2:30. At 2:30 it was to be 3:30. Finally Murray and Reuther showed up at 4. Murray said: 'Sorry, we just had a dinner engagement with Ernest Bevin. I wondered how Ernest Bevin was going to get the workers a raise. Then Murray said that if the three big CIO unions worked together we'd be accused of monopoly. So there was no joint meeting."

Act of Betrayal

"I have never seen such an act of betrayal as Murray and Carey sending wires asking employers to break their contracts with UE, and saying 'the CIO will back you up in breaking them'."

"They want to create a vacuum in our shops, with no contract, and then start from scratch."

"Now let's see what kind of job Murray did for the workers in Steel," Matles said. Then he proceeded to compare specific contract provisions of the major steel companies with the far better clauses in UE contracts, on holidays, overtime, vacations, night shift prem-



Which Method Do You Prefer?

Do you want to keep on deciding whether or not you strike, and what contract proposals you accept or reject? That's the UE rule—and with secret ballot strike votes.

In the Steel strike, Philip Murray dropped the union's wage demands and accepted the "fact-finding" recommendations, without membership vote. He ordered the workers out on strike, without strike vote. He accepted the compromise (giving up any idea of wage increase to Dec. 31, 1950), without membership vote. He sent the workers back to work without telling them the real contract terms.

Now perhaps Jimmie Boy Carey will condemn his master's lack of democracy? Perhaps his "Imitation UE" will give you real democracy? Now you tell one.

Did You Know?

The closed shop dates back to 1794 when the shoemakers of Philadelphia compelled each employer to hire only union members?

...and grievance procedure. (The detailed comparisons will be published from time to time in this paper.)

Matles said that labor must "get rid of the kind of leadership that sells the members down the river and then covers it with flag-waving."

If It Isn't Sheehan Back at Old Tricks

In addition to the Carey stooges, there is a character named Daniel Sheehan at the plant trying to do a job for GE against UE by organizing for the International Association of Machinists. The Gazette announced his campaign recently.

People in Turbine are wondering how he keeps his job as a piece work machinist when his service is under one year. The job has an AER of \$1.78.

Sheehan used to work for the American Locomotive Company. While a machine operator there he was appointed as an international representative of the Steelworkers. One week after the ALCO in workers went on strike in 1946 he went to the steel plant as labor relations man.

During February, 1948, Sheehan tried to organize an "independent" union at ALCO and oust Local 2054 of the Steelworkers. After 2054 presented evidence of this activity, ALCO fired Sheehan. GE promptly hired him in March, 1948.

Local 301 protested to GE about Sheehan's being hired for a high-rated assembly job, while many qualified employees were still refused opportunities for upgrading. The union pointed out he hadn't worked at his trade for five years and at ALCO had held a rather simple machine job.

A. C. Stevens, then assistant to

It's UE Contract, Carey Can't Get It

The Carey people keep drumming the big lie that if they should win a Taft-Hartley Board election they could take over the UE contract. Last week the Schenectady Carey stooges had their attorney, John Braun, make this claim in a newspaper statement.

The law is that the contract is with UE alone and can't be taken over or administered by the Carey outfit. By winning an election a new union at a plant gets nothing but the right to start bargaining.

Even GE, which is giving active support to Carey's company union, had to admit this fact in the Works News of Nov. 11, in connection with refusing Carey's illegal request to be named as bargaining agency.

And in the past two years, in the 38 or 40 plants taken over from UE by CIO raids, the companies succeeded in imposing worse working conditions under the new unions.

the general superintendent, said that in the opinion of the people who did the hiring Sheehan was "the kind of man we want."

Later Sheehan quit GE, but he was rehired in 1949. We wonder if there aren't some longer service men who are in unsatisfactory jobs who couldn't fill the job Sheehan is doing.

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COMPANY STALLS IN BARGAINING TO AID CAREY ==ASK YOUR STEWARD FOR THE LETTERS==

In an obvious move to create confusion and help Carey's "Imitation UE", the company last week "suspended" its previous so-called offer on pensions and insurance.

The withdrawal is meaningless, since the "offer" amounted to 2 cents an hour and called for giving up any other gains to the end of 1950. The membership has unanimously rejected the "offer" now withdrawn. But the company's latest action serves to create anti-UE headlines and confusion.

YOUR SHOP STEWARD HAS A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM THE COMPANY TO JOSEPH DERMODY, UE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, AND DERMODY'S REPLY. THESE LETTERS CLEAR UP THE PICTURE. ASK YOUR SHOP STEWARD TO LET YOU READ THEM.

Here in Schenectady the membership scored a partial victory when A.C. Stevens, Assistant to the Works Manager, backed down on the company's refusal to recognize changes in union shop stewards and board members in accordance with the contract.

As reported in last Friday's Electrical Union News, Works Manager Lewis J. Male ordered supervision to continue to recognize a former board member who had publicly taken a stand with the "Imitation UE". There was a widespread membership protest against this open attempt to establish a company union. Members met in groups all over the works during the lunch hour last Wednesday and demanded that the company abide by the contract. On Thursday Stevens notified the union that changes in representation would be recognized as in the past.

The handful of stewards who have taken their stand against the UE are being replaced by the Executive Board pending the annual election of shop stewards about two weeks from now.

The company continues to withhold the check-off money and to protect and help the Carey stooges in the plant. It also is taking full advantage of the disruption in its attitude on grievances.

Typical is the situation in the boring mill dispute in the Turbine Division. There the company had held up for months a proposal to downgrade part of the job. Recently the big boring mill group was split by an active Carey campaign on the first shift. Last Wednesday Male told the Turbine committee that the company planned to go ahead with the downgrading and cut in rate. Local 301 is taking further action to fight this move.

THE BEST ANSWER RIGHT NOW TO ALL THESE COMPANY MANEUVERS IS A BIG TURN-OUT IN THE UNION ELECTIONS MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 TO 14. VOTE, REGARDLESS OF WHOM YOU VOTE FOR. SHOW THE COMPANY WHERE THE WORKERS HERE STAND.

uopwa-local 70

IT'S UE-301 THAT PROTECTS YOUR JOBS AT GE