

'273' H Bay Stoppage Halts Machine Helper Rotation

A foreman who said he "was running the shop" regardless of safety conditions and past policies, which he ordered changed, provoked a stoppage of work by large machine operators and helpers in H Bay in Building 273 on Wednesday, April 2, that compelled him within 2 hour to change his tune.

It started on Monday, March 31, when Foreman Sommerville started rotating helpers on large machines in turbine, violating past practice of not breaking up good working teams and endangering operators because a strange man doesn't know all the operations.

A meeting of section stewards was called and told the facts, after which Stewards William Nolan, Pierce Holohan and Anders Christensen, '301' board member, talked to Sommerville and explained past policy of not changing any teams unless absolutely necessary because of illness, absenteeism or an upgrading. He was also told that breaking up teams worked to the disadvantage of GE. Sommerville told them he didn't care and was "running the shop."

Workers Backed Him Up

A meeting of the group on Wednesday voted full support to Holohan, who'd been the first to have a helper removed. When told this, Sommerville said Holohan would work as he was told or go home. Holohan punched out—followed by the rest of the operators and helpers in H Bay.

Steward Joseph Sickenger, in J Bay, joined H Bay Steward R. Douglin and Christensen in an hour-and-a-half argument in supervision. Another meeting on Thursday morning, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, which also included Holohan, Nolan and '301' board members William Linka and William Stewart, resulted in management's agreement there'd be no change of past practice and "rotating" helpers would be stopped. Holohan's helper was returned.

Vermont Senator Hits Humphrey Aim

Another Senator, George D. Aiken (R, Vt.), has spoken out against Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey's (D, Minn.) hearings to get legislation which would permit the government to "select" unions for workers, regardless of their choice, and bar unions that are allegedly "red."

Aiken is a member of the Committee on Labor & Public Welfare, of which Humphrey is chairman of a subcommittee holding the hearings. So far, Humphrey is the only senator to turn up for the hearings, which have been recessed until later in April.

In a letter to Helen Healy, chairman of UE's local in Bellows Fall, Vt., Aiken declared:

"I do not believe that we should enact any legislation which permits the Federal Government to designate what labor unions the working people of this country may choose between. I feel such a step would result in the loss of much of the gain which labor has accumulated over past years."

The week before, Sen. James E. Murray (D, Mont.) chairman of the Labor & Public Welfare Committee, declared he would "continue my efforts to prevent this unnecessary course."

March of Labor Editor Addresses '301' Board

Walter Barry, associate editor of the progressive trade union monthly magazine, March of Labor, was a guest speaker at the last meeting of the '301' executive board.

He stressed that organized labor in the thirties had a policy of unity and an initiative that led to trail-blazing progress for workers, whereas in the forties the corporations have counter-attacked with a policy that is responsible for the Taft-Hartley Act, and the wage freeze that undermines collective bargaining. The aim of March of Labor, he said, is to serve as a medium to help again unify labor so that it might return to the united policies that trail-blazed progress over a decade ago.

Members who wish to subscribe to March of Labor, \$2 a year, should see their steward, who can secure subscription forms from '301' board members.

30 GE Silicosis Victims' Case Is Pressed by UE

UE's long campaign to compel GE to meet its obligations to 16 Schenectady porcelain and 14 Elmira foundry workers, who are partial victims of silicosis, is going to the N. Y. State Court of Appeals.



Wall St. Journal Says Unemployment Hidden

Unemployment is not "critical" but it is substantially greater than indicated by government reports, according to the conservative big business newspaper—the Wall St. Journal.

Expressing concern over the sharp drop in retail sales in recent months, the Journal said part of the cause may lie in the unemployment situation. In one month, from December, 1951 to January, 1952, 1,250,000 workers lost their jobs.

The Journal advised readers "to look behind" the government figures on today's full employment and you'll find a lot of idle hands."

Win New Time Study On Rate Slashed Job

When Job V-5356774 was made a combination job with Job R2-97, with no change in method, Foreman J. Plichta cut the price six cents per hundred—but the next time it's in production it will be time studied for a new price as a result of grievance action by the group involved.

The group appealed their grievance to management level, charging this cut was a violation of the UE contract and won a commitment on the time study. Steward D. Pitucci handled the grievance.

Although the New York state compensation laws provide that a worker can only receive silicosis benefits if he is totally disabled, UE has asserted that changes made in the law in 1947 permit a partially disabled victim to start a common law action to receive compensation.

Although a lower court last month voted against the UE case, one judge offered a favorable opinion that opened the door for UE to take the case to the higher court.

The precedent-making opinion by Judge Dore states: "if we hold that no remedy for such injury survives at common law, we hold that, although a wrong has been done, there may be a right to there is no remedy. As a consequence, the large numbers of employees who suffer serious injuries from partial silicosis by reason of wrongful breach of duty by the employers are left without any remedy whatsoever."

UE began the case in 1950, after it conducted its own medical survey of the silicosis problem, suing for \$50,000 in damages for the 30 workers. GE has been represented in the case by Thayer & Gilbert, a Wall St. law firm. UE General Counsel David Scribner has handled the case for the workers.

GE's Wall St. lawyers were at a loss for arguments when Judge Dore told them last month they should forget the confusing, technical, legal precedents and look at the subject as a matter of justice and fairness in the light of the real purposes of the compensation law.

Rate of Real Wages

At the end of 1951 the "real" wage after taxes of a U. S. worker with three dependents was less than one percent above 1949. A single worker's "real" wage 1½ percent below 1949.

Rate of Speed-up

Between 1949 and 1951, the increased rate of production for each worker amounted to 11 percent in the United States.

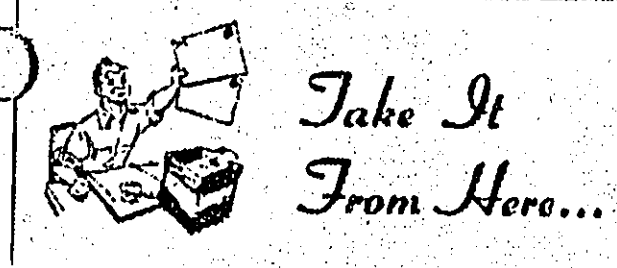
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Dayton, Ohio—IUE-CIO raiders got a sound trouncing by UE members working at the GHR Foundry here. The final vote was 501 for UE, 250 for IUE. So desperate was the IUE that in the final days it tried a frame-up of three shop workers and UE's district president to put them in jail. They were promptly released, while the incident only aroused greater anger against IUE's raiding.

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St. Louis—Leaders of 22 CIO, AFL and independent unions in the oil industry warned the Wage Stabilization Board that their members' patience is wearing out and are prepared to strike if the WSB doesn't settle their demands for a 25 cent increase soon.

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South Boston, Mass.—For the second time since the IUE-CIO began its union-busting campaign at the A. S. Campbell Co. here, UE Local 262 has administered a defeat to IUE in an NLRB election. In an election on April 8, 206 voted for UE, 188 for IUE-CIO.

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New York—A raid by the AFL Commercial Telegraphers against 5,000 New York City Western Union employees was defeated by the American Communications Assn. (Ind.) The vote was 2,275 for ACA and 1,872 for the AFL.

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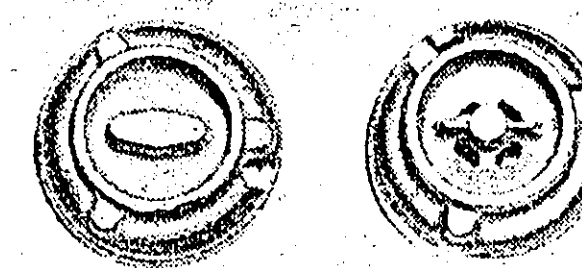
Brooklyn, N. Y.—After a long campaign of disruptive and union-busting raiding tactics by the IUE-CIO, UE Local 475 members at Bommer Spring Hinge Co. defeated IUE by a margin of 112 to 42 in an NLRB election on April 9.

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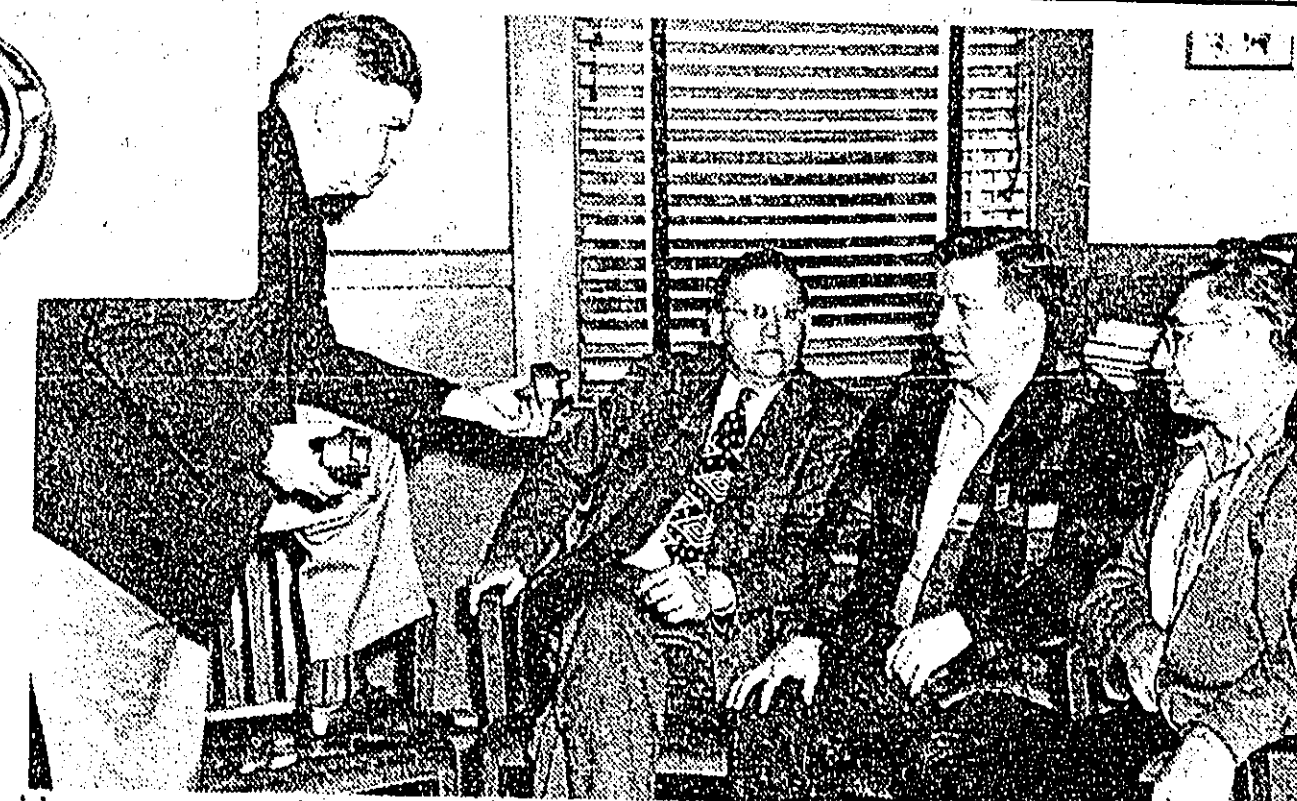
Birmingham, Ala.—AFL Street Railway members ended a four-day strike here with a five cent hourly wage increase won.

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New York, N. Y. — When the wage freeze board tried to withhold approval of a surgical insurance plan at Aeme Gear Co., which had been in effect for many years, UE Local 1227 members all signed a telegram to the WSB saying they would tolerate no tampering with their plan. The plan was approved within 48 hours.



GE RATE SLASHING. A small casting became a big issue in Elmira. Old casting, above left, paid \$5.76 per hundred. Four new holes and a slight change in projection, right, and GE tried to slash the price to \$4.76 a hundred, forcing a four week strike. UE Local 310 members voted to return to work last Tuesday for three weeks at \$5 per hundred while a new method is studied. If no new price by then, foundry workers will be paid average earnings while new price is negotiated. On right, (l. to r.) UE Local 310 Pres. Leland Austin and John J. Gush, '310' negotiations member, visited UE Local 301 to explain strike issues and show the change in casting to '301' board member William Christman and Steward Bernard Pasulo, induction motor division, which had lay-offs because of GE's attempt to slash rates. Both '301' members felt the new design called for increased earnings rather than an attempted cut in price.



Skilled Workers Step Up Fight for Rate Increases

If GE had any lingering doubts that its toolmakers and skilled building craftsmen will not take "no" for an answer in their demand for special adjustments—it was shattered on Tuesday, April 15 when 43 representatives of these groups, together with '301' Business Agent

Laying A Ghost To Rest

A ghost was laid to rest at the skilled trades meeting with Works management last Tuesday. GE blamed the Union for a narrowing gap in rates between skilled and common laborer. GE said it was caused by the Union insisting on flat cent increases.

'301' Business Agent Leo Jandreau cited a few figures to prove the shoe was on the other foot. In 1936, before UE, he pointed out, top toolmakers made \$1.08 (which few got). Common laborer rate was 40 cents. This made a gap of 68 cents between the two.

Today, in 1952, after 16 years of UE, toolmakers at the top of progression, on A rate, make \$2.21. Common laborer rate is \$1.43. The gap is now 78 cents—showing the Union has raised the toolmaker gap upwards approximately 15 percent.

UE up to 1948 sought flat cents an hour increases, as did most of the labor movement as a national pattern to get back what had been lost to workers. UE, at the same time, sought special adjustments in every negotiations for women and skilled workers. GE resisted vigorously.

However, Jandreau stated, in 1948 UE won an 8 percent increase. There was no GE increase in 1949 because of IUE-CIO raiding. In 1950, however, it was GE, not UE, that arbitrarily announced a flat 10 cent increase and in 1951 it was again GE that arbitrarily announced a flat 9 cent increase, followed then by a 3.58 percent increase.

In the face of the facts that UE has boosted skilled rates and GE was guilty of what it tried to blame the Union for—GE's spokesman dropped his argument like a hot potato.

and adjusted at any time."

Jandreau warned that "endless discussion of these questions has built up a considerable amount of dissatisfaction among these highly skilled mechanics" that "may lead to serious trouble if the company locally or nationally does not propose a solution satisfactory to those involved."

The feeling of skilled workers was forcibly brought out to Works management as representatives of the various groups spoke out. Some of the comments were: Hank Caputo, Bldg. 107, masons: "We're not getting as much as outside masons and we're damned sore because our work requires much more knowledge." Otto Gau, Knolls-1, toolmaker: "Our skills and responsibilities are continuously increasing. We are required to design and develop

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.

Airport: Alfred A. Christopher, flight test, demands adjustment in pay retroactively, on basis he was hired as class C aircraft mechanic on Sept. 26, 1951 and started more than two steps below his job rate—a violation of the Union contract.

Bldg. 10C: James A. Ledbetter, A&O, kept on Piece Work, Day Work, worked two jobs. On one he had nine hours PWDW, the other 16 hours PWDW. He demands to be put on regular piece work and these jobs and similar ones be regular piece work with a price put on them.

Thomas S. Lontrate, A&O, is working on a radial drill job with an 87 cent timing rate, while a similar job in Bldg. 46 has a \$1.01 timing rate. He demands \$1.01 for his job.

An overall time study of all operations on shell job 9618067-1 to establish adequate prices under normal conditions is demanded by a group of boreomatic operators under Foreman H. Harley. The foreman has used a price set in Bldg. 28 under different conditions. After money is used up, foreman pays PWDW. Operators can't make earnings on present prices, but foreman told them they'd either work at the Bldg. 28 prices or go home.

Bldg. 13: Leon Kiskel, shop electric, a B electrician for six years, demands reclassification to A, with increased rate, since he is doing A work and this violates a Union understanding with GE.

Bldg. 17: A group of jig bore operators demand a reevaluation of their job, maintaining their skill has increased and additional responsibilities have been added to the job in recent years.

Bldg. 24: A group on winding machines, working on temporary prices for six months, ask the prices be made standard.

A group on spot welding feel the \$1.34 rate is too low and should be rated higher.

Assembly groups working on five jobs at \$1.34 rate demand a higher rate.

Raymond E. Peacock demands reevaluation in relation to skills and knowledge required on thrust selector job, claiming \$1.29 is too low for a job that is done from blueprints and is complicated.

Bldg. 28: Josephine Riggi, promised a transfer in February from a job she is physically unsuitable for to a more suitable one, has not been given an opportunity on several openings. She demands an investigation.

Bldg. 29: Luther Dexter, mica stock room, demands that a penalty be rescinded, since the condition that caused it was the fault of supervision.

Bldg. 46: Discrimination and vio-

Dues Refund Payment Date

Members who are entitled to dues refunds because of errors of deductions in check-off, illness, or other such reasons should not apply for a refund until the 15th of each month, when the check-off is in the hands of the Union, Marshall White, office manager, announces.

lation of contract, pertaining to upgrading of older employees, is charged to supervision in Bldg. 46, by trying through a new procedure to break the existing standards of inspection established over the years.

Bldg. 49: Mechanical inspectors of the bucket section, on all three shifts, request a reevaluation and two step increase in rate, since their work is in line with A work done in building and the B rate does not meet the skills and knowledge required for the job.

Bldg. 60: Cable gang and riggers, building trades, demand each job have an inspector. When cable gang inspector left, the rigger inspector was assigned to both jobs, which they feel one man cannot do efficiently.

Bldg. 67: Theresa Monaco, reclassified from cleaner to common laborer last November, has had more duties added than agreed upon. An investigation is demanded.

Bldg. 68: Harold L. Sheldon, in porcelain, is classified "repair refractories" at \$1.60½, though job is primarily mason's work. A reclassification and job rate of mason is demanded.

Bldg. 73: Walter Borowski, a material handler, demands overtime work on Saturdays, instead of a leader doing the overtime.

Bldg. 73A: Crane followers demand equal distribution of overtime and to be called in for overtime when their group is, instead of work being given on overtime to leader or piece worker.

Bldg. 77: A Ferro, chemicals, demands restoration of schedule and work as in the past. He was cut 2½ hours and given additional duties, with unauthorized personnel assigned to his work.

A second shift group under Foreman Sharke charges they're speeded up to do six days' work in five, eliminating Saturday work. They demand better scheduling so that all shifts receive proper share of overtime.

Bldg. 81: Herbert R. Rhodes, test, given an assignment on class B test work without a change in classification or rate, demands reclassification and a one step increase.

Bldg. 107: A group in grounds and buildings demands equal distribution of overtime. They charge Foreman Dillenbeck brings in men with maximum hours while men with minimum hours are not asked and overlooked.

Bldg. 109: John Donnelly, wire and cable, demands his proper job rate on basis that his work is as good as anyone else on job.

Bldg. 273: Joseph Bullis demands opportunity for higher rated part of job. Though classed a C stator frame assembler for a long time, Bullis has not been given opportunity for higher B work. Shorter service men, meanwhile, have been given such opportunities.

Mitchell Kracko, Edward Purzycki, Paul F. Buller, William Polansky, Eugene B. Kettner, Carl Eklund, John Sukala and Bart McGeek, experienced welders, were hired at more than two steps below the job rate of the job, a violation of the UE contract.

H. Russo and A. Young, experienced welders, claim they were started more than two steps below job rate and should receive \$1.86½ for work they're now performing. They demand an adjustment in both their starting and present rate, with retroactive pay.

T. W. Pierce, hired as experienced combination welder, started at \$1.46½ instead of \$1.75½, which is two steps below job rate of \$1.86½. A retroactive adjustment to date he started is demanded.

Bldg. 285: B. C. Anun charges timing data of a set-up man and inspector is used by foreman to establish a P.R. table to establish prices, a complete violation of understandings and agreements with GE on establishment of tables and prices of job. It's demanded that GE honor its agreement.

A. G. Carrara demands a new time study on 206 coil, with a proper compensating allowance. The 50 cent a hundred price is called inadequate because there are 15 different types of coils and the 206 coil time study did not give proper compensating allowances in relation to cubic inches of coil.

Battery truck operators, under Foreman F. Luther in shipping, demand a one step increase and elimination of porters' duties from their present classification. They're now doing tying work and required to sweep floors and do other porter work.

Cap. Ave.-Race Track: Fred J. Ward, class B machinist for nine months, got rate up on April 7 to first step of B, though for sometime he has done full B work on his job. He demands the job rate of \$1.87½ immediately.

Edward E. Alto, general engineering lab, hired as experienced sheet metal worker on Nov. 11, 1950 at \$1.33 an hour, charges he was not started two steps below job rate and not advanced on rate in accordance with performance. A proper adjustment is demanded.

Floyd Thomas demands that management investigate and instruct Foreman F. Brush to cease a desist harassing him, a violation of UE contract Article IV-1.

Russell A. Hazzard demands a one step increase retroactive to Feb. 18, 1952. Classified as welder-hand developmental, which has a \$1.99 rate, his present rate is \$1.93. When on Feb. 18 his foreman put in for an increase, it was turned down at management level.

A group of sheet metal A workers demand a reevaluation. They claim their work warrants higher rate than \$1.87½, since they're performing work beyond their classification, such as designing and developmental work of a complicated nature.



WHAT ARE YOU GRIPING ABOUT?...IT'S FREE, AINT IT?

WSB Approves Two Contract Gains

The Wage Stabilization Board last week approved two gains negotiated with GE last fall. One provides four instead of three hours report-in time. The other adds an additional step in progression for those working on jobs paying two steps over and above the top of a progression. It provides an additional automatic step three months after reaching the top of the progression.

On old jobs of \$1.65 or under in the Schenectady Works, a worker hired for a job rate two steps above \$1.65—paying \$1.74—would get \$1.65 after five months. The new provision, effective Jan. 1, 1952, provides that after another three months the worker will automatically receive \$1.69, with the last step of \$1.74 to be reached on the basis of merit.

Urge WSB Approval Of 3 Week Vacations

Prompt approval of paid three weeks vacation after 15 years, won in GE negotiations last fall, was requested of the Wage Stabilization Board last week, in a letter sent Chairman Nathan Feinsinger by '301' Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Pointing out many people are now taking vacations and their rights are impaired by WSB's failure to approve the schedule, Feinsinger was told approval "does not require the setting up of new policy or regulations."

GE Will Schedule 3 Week Vacations

Three week vacations for all workers with 15 years or more service will be scheduled this year by GE. Though the Wage Stabilization Board has not yet approved the third week after 15 years, the company will schedule these vacations and pay for two now—and pay for the third when the WSB approval comes through.

The Union received this commitment from GE last week. The third week after 15 years was won in last fall's negotiations.

Skilled Workers Step Up Fight For Increases

Continued from Page 1

tools to close tolerances. I know an outside job shop GE has subcontracted to for turbine tool work and pays \$3 an hour. Why not us?"

C. Selke, Campbell Ave., toolmaker: "Toolmakers are dissatisfied at Campbell Ave. and are looking for jobs outside that pay more money—or want transfers to piece work production jobs."

Frank Diehsner, tinsmith: "The helpers on inside work are required to know as much as outside tinsmiths."

George Griffin, structural steel: "We feel we're first cousins to piece workers. We're speeded up constantly but not paid for it."

Mario Pantalone, Bldg. 46, toolmaker: "GE pays more for tool work contracted outside. When work comes back, we have to rework it. GE could save money by giving us an increase and let us do it in the first place."

C. A. Jacob, Bldg. 269, toolmaker: "While working as a superintendent for IBM, I found workers are much more efficient when they are satisfied. The IBM people pay much higher than GE. I could recognize the difference in feeling when I came to GE. I also know GE has an agreement with the Watervliet arsenal not to pay higher than what's paid in GE."

J. Ruzzo, Bldg. 28 aeronautics, toolmaker: "The requirements for toolmakers are becoming higher continually. Wages just don't keep pace with this."

Ray Ellis, Bldg. 273, toolmaker: "How much longer toolmakers stay in line depends on what GE does."

Anthony Esposito, Bldg. 53, toolmaker: "Toolmakers are not compensated for skills and effort required—and this has been going on too long to suit toolmakers."

D. L. Santore, Bldg. 60, millwright: "Outside contractors setting up machines in turbine had a higher rate and then we had to take it apart and reinstall it afterwards."

Though management said it "expected no changes in the offing," skilled workers again made clear they intend to create some changes at a "report-back" lunch-hour demonstration held on Thursday, April 17 outside Building 41.

Jandreau on YMCA Sponsoring Committee

Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent, has accepted membership on the sponsoring committee of a YMCA drive to raise funds to modernize the 'Y' main building, built an addition to 'Y' House in Mt. Pleasant, a new swimming pool in Tippecanoe and improve the summer camp at Lake George. "The 'Y' has through the years shown its worthiness of support," stated Jandreau in accepting the appointment.



MONTHLY MEETING. Members of the Local 301 Pensioner's Club are seen above at their monthly membership meeting on April 2. The Club discusses pension problems and brings them to the Union's attention for action. A burning problem all GE pensioners face these days is the increased cost of living—something they are demanding the company move to remedy.

Westinghouse Bulb Boycott Urged

An appeal for every '301' member to boycott Westinghouse light bulbs has been issued by the local's executive board.

Westinghouse forced a strike at its Trenton bulb plant some weeks ago when it tried to jack up production 75 percent and fired a woman worker with top seniority.

UE appealed the grievance to the top national level. Westinghouse not only refused to budge but locked out the workers, and threatened to move the work to a low wage plant in Arkansas.

UE Local 443 has accepted a citizens' committee proposal to arbitrate, but Westinghouse refuses.

The '301' board stated that Westinghouse is using the situation in an attempt to force speed-up, break the contract and destroy unionism in the entire Westinghouse chain.

'301' Dance Date Set

The date has been set for an evening of dancing, fun and frolic for Local 301 members.

The Activities Committee announces that a '301' Dance will be held at the Edison Club in Rexford from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on the evening of Saturday, June 7. Tickets for the affair are selling for 80 cents each, including tax.

To See Kearney

The '301' executive board has appointed a delegation to visit and officially urge on behalf of the Union that Congr. Patrick Kearney oppose renewal of the Defense Production Act, which expires June 30, 1952.

The DPA, which legislates the wage freeze and undermines collective bargaining, has been characterized by UE Pres. Albert J. Fitzgerald as a law that "takes from those who have too little and gives to those who have much."

Members of the delegation, which will visit Kearney in Gloversville during the congressional Easter recess, includes Roy Schaffer, '301' vice president; Rudy Rissland, recording secretary; Dewey Brashear, legislative chairman; Board members Hank Kaminski, Larry Gebro, William Stewart, William Christman, Floyd Thomas and Sadie Iovinelli. Also included is Ethel Furman.

Community Figures Hit Humphrey

Nearly 40 community leaders have already signed a statement directed to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey's (D, Minn.) subcommittee urging that it "turn its efforts in directions that would aid the welfare, health and prosperity of the American people," instead of trying to enact legislation that would end workers' democratic choice of unions through government selection of unions.

Among those signing the statement to date are 17 small business men and merchants and four political leaders. Also included are pharmacists, lawyers, professors, doctors, social workers, ministers and a funeral director.

Deflate Bldg. 273 'Big Head' AGF

R. T. Schulenburg, Bldg. 273 assistant general foreman, who has earned himself the title of "Big Head" among the workers, got deflated a bit on Wednesday, April 9, when he got too big for his britches.

Two stewards called upon William Linka, '301' board member, to assist on a grievance they were unable to solve with Foreman L. Weller.

While Linka was walking down the aisle to investigate, "Big Head" Schulenburg rushed over to him and shouted: "I don't give a damn if you pull the switches—or for that matter the whole turbine division."

Linka promptly filed a grievance against Schulenburg, charging intimidation and trying to create an impression among operators nearby that Linka was going to try to create trouble.

The result was that in 24 hours Linka got a written answer that Schulenburg had made a "hasty remark" and that it "in no way reflects Mr. Schulenburg's attitude toward Mr. Linka in the carrying out of his duties as a Board member nor does it reflect the attitude of management."

Turbine workers dubbed Schulenburg as "Big Head" because of his overzealousness on behalf of management. They feel he is trying to prove he is a "good man," since he used to be a UE steward in the turbine division when it was in Bldg. 60.