

301 Donates \$1,000 To Blackstone Strike

A \$1,000 donation to the UE strike at the Blackstone Corporation, Jamestown, was unanimously voted by the 301 membership meeting last week. George Kotch, vice-president of the striking Local 305, told the meeting that the 600 Blackstone workers were starting their seventh week on the picket line.

A Supreme Court Justice in Buffalo recently refused to grant the company's request for an injunction to stop the picketing. The company claimed there was "violence," but the mayor of Jamestown and the police chief signed affidavits that the picketing was peaceful and orderly.

Labor unions of Jamestown were responsible for the election of the mayor, Kotch declared, and for a labor-minded city administration. "We have four UE members on the City Council," he said.

The strike was called because of the company's refusal to grant a wage increase or to agree to basic provisions in contract negotiations. The company insisted on keeping the right to dock workers for "repairs."

More Gems of Wisdom From GE's Boulware

L. R. Boulware's piece in defense of Taft-Hartley in the Works News of Mar. 25 reached new heights of gall. He was quoted as telling the Senate Labor Committee that "the right to strike should be preserved except in national emergencies."

He issued this gem: "National paralysis just ought not to be available as an economic instrument to any selfish individual group."

Boulware never calls it selfish if a huge corporation profiteers, pushes prices up, helps bring on a depression, and forces its employees to strike by refusing to yield up any of its super-profits.

But if 125,000 workers feel that they have exhausted every peaceful means of negotiation and have no choice but to strike, then they are a "selfish group" and it is the president's duty to rush out with an injunction to break the strike.

Incidentally, it is interesting that Boulware quite frankly does not mind small strikes, but wants the type of injunction that can be used against strikes in the huge monopolies that dominate the American economy.

Describes UE Strike



GEORGE KOTCH

UE Bills Introduced To Aid Atomic Workers

Through the efforts of UE, two bills were introduced into the state legislature this session to protect the workmen's compensation rights and the health of workers in atomic plants. Both bills, introduced by Assemblyman Bernard Austin of Brooklyn, were recommended by the Albany conference on workmen's compensation called by UE Districts 3 and 4 in February.

One bill provided for placing under the full coverage of the Workmen's Compensation law all workers in contact with "fissionable materials" (all materials used in connection with atomic work). It provided that if such workers are disabled, their disability shall be presumed to have been caused by their work.

The other bill required that employers report to the state the names of all workers in contact with fissionable materials, and other facts about their employment. It directed that such workers be given physical examinations every six months while working and for as long afterwards as they wish. Another provision was that a medical panel be set up by the state to supervise the health of these atomic workers. All physicians involved would be cleared as to security.

301 Asks Action Of Public Officials

(Continued from Page 1)

dent William Hodges, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, Board Members William Stewart and Joseph Mangino, and the 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin, reported:

That Begley "expressed opposition to the sales tax but did not state his position on either the payroll tax or the Taft-Hartley Law in a manner which the Local 301 committee could understand," and that he failed to keep his promise to send the committee a letter on both subjects.

That Bradshaw "indicated some opposition to the payroll tax, but did not take a stand on the sales tax and pleaded ignorance of the Taft-Hartley Law, and has failed to inform us of his position as he had promised."

Clear Stand Demanded

The resolution, recommended unanimously by the committee and by the Executive Board, declared "there is room for neither ignorance nor evasion by public officials on issues so vital to the people." It stated "there must be neither a payroll tax nor sales tax on the under-paid and over-taxed working people of Schenectady."

"Tax monies needed by the city and county must be raised on the basis of ability to pay, through state aid and higher income taxes on the upper brackets, and higher corporate taxes and a readjustment of the assessments which now burden the wage earner and favor General Electric and the American Locomotive Company," the resolution declared.

Copies of the resolution were sent to all members of the City Council and County Board of Supervisors.

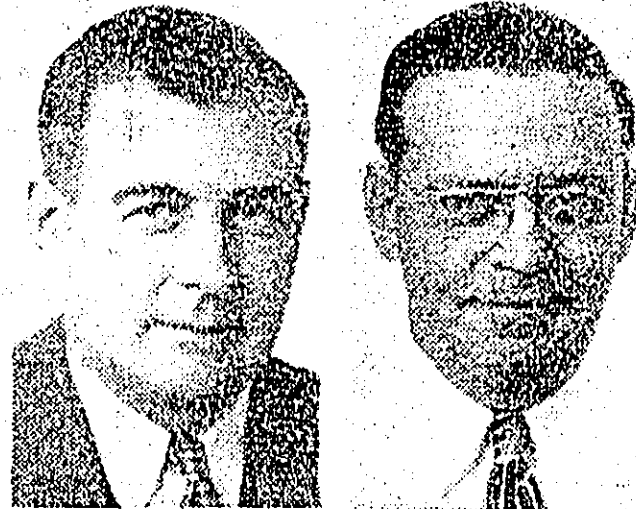
Workers Top Quota In Red Cross Drive

Hourly rated workers at the plant gave \$96,970 to the Red Cross drive. Their quota was \$25,000. In the entire plant \$56,000 was raised.

301 Vice-President William Hodges, co-chairman of the campaign at the plant and representative of the union, issued the following statement at the close of the drive:

"In behalf of Local 301 I wish to thank all persons who contributed so generously to the 1949 Red Cross fund."

On Honor Roll



Farr Simpson



Lasher Borovicka

A dozen new names were added recently to the list of shop stewards with 100 per cent UE membership in their groups. They are: Building 16—Stanley L. Fisher and David Bambury.

Bldg. 46—Arthur Chevalier and Wilbur Germain. Bldg. 49—Frank Ford. Bldg. 52—Earl H. Smith. Bldg. 53—Addison Miller and Virginia Murphy. Bldg. 60—Joseph H. Alois. Bldg. 64—Vernon J. Millington. Bldg. 66—Donald D. Murphy. Bldg. 71—Frank Palmo.

The pictures are of stewards previously reported on the honor list: Harold D. Simpson, Bldg. 28; S. J. Borovicka, Bldg. 105; Ralph Lasher, Bldg. 109, and George G. Farr, Bldg. 278.

GE Presses Fight Against Pensioner

The General Electric Company is carrying still further its fight to have the state suspend for seven weeks the unemployment insurance benefits of Orresto Lazarro, pensioner. GE has filed notice it will appeal from a state referee's ruling that Lazarro is entitled to full jobless benefits without penalty delay.

Lazarro, who contracted silicosis as a molder in ceramics, retired because of the effect of the job on his health. The union is handling his case.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A.

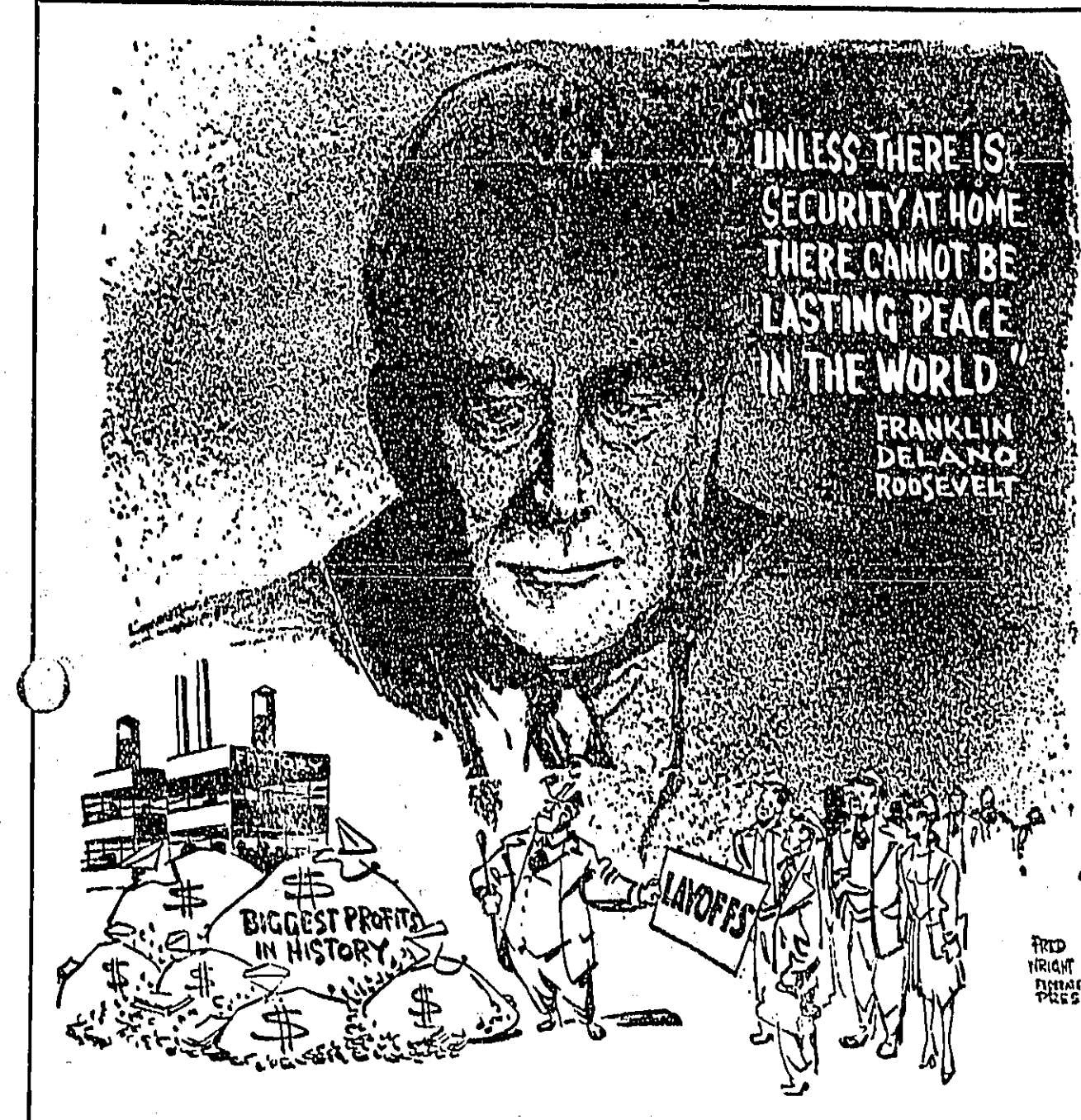
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Vol. 7 — No. 14

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

April 8, 1949

In Memoriam --- April 12, 1945



(Next Tuesday will be the fourth anniversary of the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt.)

Engine-Lathe Job Is Open

In spite of recent layoffs management reports that a high paying engine-lathe job in Motor Generator, third shift, is going begging.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, told Business Agent Leo Jandreau this week that workers laid-off from other jobs and qualified to fill the engine-lathe job have refused to take it.

As a result, Stevens said, the company has hired a man from outside the plant. However there still are several other openings on the same job.

Jandreau last week sent a letter to Stevens challenging some recent new hirings after lay-offs out of the plant.

Stevens this week told Jandreau that for all practical purposes hiring has stopped, except in rare instances where jobs can't be filled by laid-off workers. He mentioned the engine-lathe job in this connection.

In one case Stevens admitted a mistake had been made in hiring.

Meeting Planned On Work Transfer

A meeting of Building 53 shop stewards whose groups are affected by the coming transfer of work to Morrison, Ill., will be called shortly at the union hall to discuss the situation. There will be special emphasis on placement of workers so they can maintain earnings.

The transfer announcement by the company said manufacture of appliance controls would go to a new small plant in Morrison, which would be "nearer the center of their market." Actually this is part of the program which GE has been following since the war, of moving operations to new areas where it expects to pay lower wages. A large part of the small controls and relays made in Building 53 are for refrigerators. The Erie GE refrigerator plant is closer to Schenectady than to Illinois.

The move is expected to affect between 300 and 400 workers, most of them women. The company said the transfer would be made gradually within a year. No date was set for the start of the move.

Stewards Declare Company Responsible for Stoppages

Local 301 shop stewards at a big meeting Tuesday night voted unanimously to advise General Electric that supervision's conduct, particularly in the speed-up drive and contract violations, was responsible for occasional work stoppages.

The stewards acted on a letter from A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, suggesting "disciplinary action" and warning of "more positive action" in case of future stoppages.

Jandreau Sends Answer

A reply from Business Agent Leo Jandreau, authorized by the stewards, declared that what was needed was "joint efforts of the company and the union in expediting complaints and reaching settlements satisfactory to the employees."

The union letter pointed out that occasionally members take direct action, despite union advice to the contrary, "when they feel themselves aggrieved and feel they have no reason to expect a settlement through the normal grievance procedure." The letter concluded:

"The stewards want the company to know that they have every intention of living up to the contract. They also want you to know that they will resist any attempt to penalize any shop steward or other members for actions for which supervision, by its conduct, is primarily responsible."

"We suggest that when super-

GE Safety Campaign Might Start at Home

Newspapers reported last week that the General Electric Company has produced an "electronic narrator" that could be used as a safety device in factories to shout warnings to workers.

For instance, according to the Associated Press the "narrator" might be installed beside a grinding wheel and save a great many eyes by reminding workers to put on their safety glasses.

And speaking of safety, how about GE heeding the warnings of UE about the dangers of speed-up? And what about working conditions that caused the 90 silicosis cases at the Elmira foundry?

Of course the "narrator" could be set to shout "Eat Beans" all day at the workers.

vision proposes departures from the present practices and conditions in the shop, these proposed changes be discussed with union representatives in advance instead of arbitrarily putting them into effect."

The text of Stevens' letter and Jandreau's reply are carried in full on page 3 of this paper.

The stoppage referred to by Stevens occurred on the second shift in the new Turbine Building. Chippers walked out when ordered to do assemblers' work.

Speed-up Drive
The stewards discussed the situation extensively at the Tuesday night meeting. From the Turbine Division, Board Member William A. Stewart, Chief Steward Stephen Watts, and Steward Roy Lash gave examples of the increased speed-up drive. Stewart declared the company intended to get out as many turbines this year as last year, but without overtime.

"As to safety," Stewart said, "it doesn't mean anything down there."

Stewards from other divisions said the speed-up drive was proceeding there also.

Approve UE Wage Policy

The 301 shop stewards Tuesday night unanimously endorsed the wage policy statement recently issued by the UE General Executive Board. The stewards specifically approved the GEB's action in calling for a national CIO conference to plan a wage campaign.

470 New Members

Local 301 has signed up 470 new members since the start of the organizing drive, the union office reported Wednesday.

Although the campaign is to continue for the entire year, the period during which members receive a dollar for each new member they sign up will end next Friday, Apr. 15.

WIN A WAGE INCREASE TO PROTECT YOUR JOB

Easy to Figure What GE Wants

The only labor law which would satisfy General Electric is one which would make it impossible for workers to have any effective power in collective bargaining. That is clear from the testimony of GE's Charles E. Wilson and L. R. Boulware before the Senate Labor Committee, now being quoted weekly in the Works News.

In the issue of March 25, Boulware wanted injunctions against big strikes. In the April issue he calls for a federal law against mass picketing. He declares that in the 1946 strike salaried employees "were forcibly prevented by mass picketing and violence from engaging in activities of immediate and long-range benefits to the employees."

Now Boulware wasn't here during the 1946 strike. Most 301 members were here. They know that the only violence was caused by supervisors trying to force their way into the plant. Naturally, GE would like to be able to work the "Mohawk Valley" formula. It would like to have had thousands of unorganized workers driven in, and then used its propaganda power to start a "back-to-work" movement with the hope of breaking the strike.

Boulware complains about the 1946 strike because GE could not break it.

Boulware's speech also complained of union "super-power over city, state, and nation." This from the company which has been charged 12 times with violations of the nation's laws, and each time gets away with fines which are pin money compared with the price-gouging profits involved in the violations of the trust laws.

Which was the "super-power" which was able to get the Atomic Energy Commission to order GE to violate its union contract?

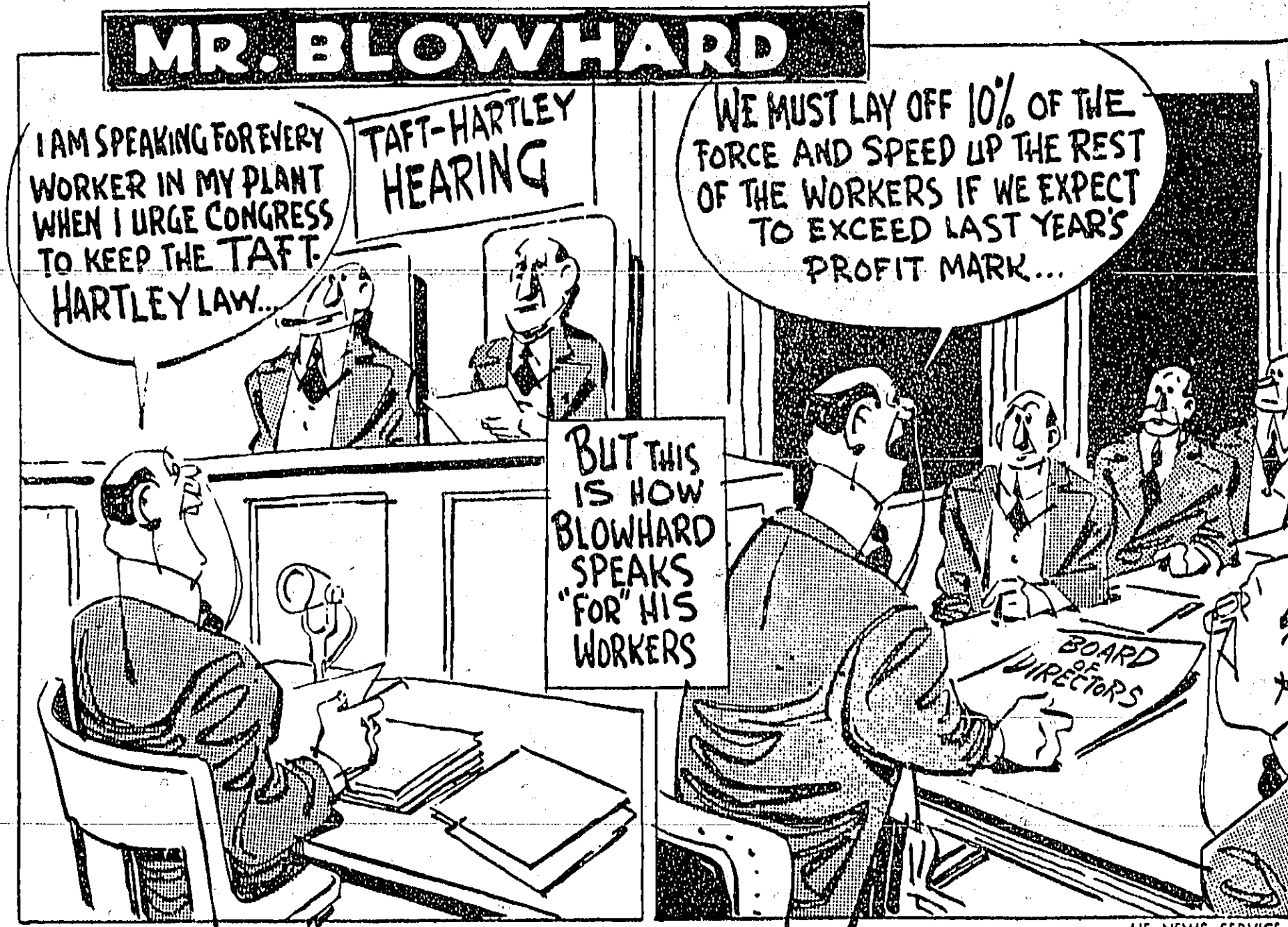
UE Wins Pay Increase

The first UE contract for Pam Clock workers in New York City has brought them a pay raise of 12½ cents an hour, with another five cents coming in six months.

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\$4,685 Award Made For Injury to Hand

A workmen's compensation award of \$4,685 has been made to Richard Baitzer, punch press operator in Building 15, for 60 per cent permanent loss of the use of his left hand in an accident last July 13. The claim against GE was handled through the union.

Other recent awards obtained through the union include:

\$3,494 to Stephen Machovic, battery truck operator of Bldg. 109, for 40 per cent loss of the use of his left arm. He suffers from an occupational injury occurring over a number of years.

\$1,366.40 to Anthony Baron, Bldg. 53 battery truck operator, for 20 per cent loss of the use of his left hand as the result of an accident last May 7.

\$120 to Anthony Diamante, machinist in Bldg. 105, for 25 per cent loss of the use of his right small finger in an accident last Aug. 26.

Sworn as Steward

Benjamin Gabrièle, Building 40 shop steward who took the oath of office at the 301 membership meeting Mar. 22.



Who Gets the Benefit Of More Productivity?

Between 1939 and 1948 overall productivity increased almost one-third.

This means that three workers now are doing the work that four turned out in 1939.

In the electrical equipment industry, the increase in productivity during the same period was even greater—39%.

The corporations have not lowered prices in response to the increased productivity.

Leon Keyserling of the President's Council of Economic Advisors said:

"The leveling off or softening of some prices has been exaggerated or misinterpreted."

He noted continued price increases on rents, fuels and house furnishings and metal products.

With prices high, working people have not the purchasing power to absorb the increased production.

As a result, in December 1948, 700,000 workers were thrown out of work and the number of workers on part time increased one half million. In the electrical industry alone, 80,000 workers lost their jobs.

Did You Know?

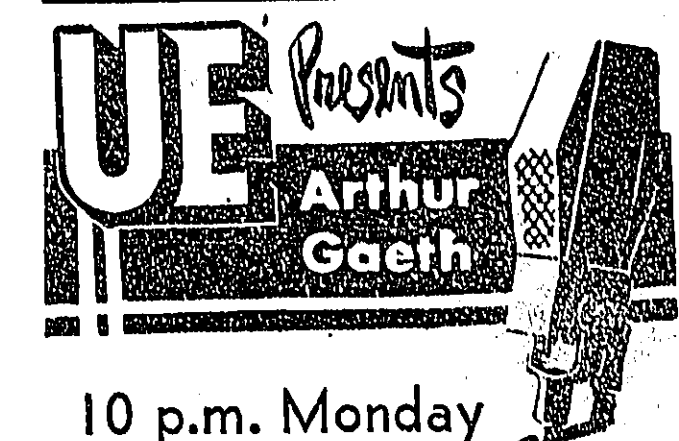
Abraham Lincoln once said that whatever harms labor also harms the whole nation.

It is too bad that some members of Congress have not taken Lincoln's statement to heart. It would have been helpful, for instance, when the Taft-Hartley Law was first being considered.

Stewards Ask Action Against Taft-Hartley

Local 301 shop stewards voted unanimously Tuesday night to ask CIO President Philip Murray to call for some form of national demonstration in support of labor's demand for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

The motion, which came from the floor, originally called for a one-day national work stoppage. But an amendment was accepted to leave the specific form of demonstration to Murray. A copy of the message to Murray is to be sent to the national UE.



In observance of the anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's death, the Arthur Gaeth radio broadcast next Monday night will be a memorial program. It will emphasize Roosevelt's great contribution to the cause of world peace.

Stevens' Letter to Jandreau

(See story on page 1)

The following letter, dated Mar. 31, was sent by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, to Business Agent Leo Jandreau of Local 301:

"Dear Mr. Jandreau,

"Last week we experienced another work stoppage in the new Turbine building when a group of chippers left their jobs and went home, apparently in sympathy with two or three of their number who had refused to perform work assigned them by their foreman.

"As you know, we have been very lenient with the Stewards or others in cases of this sort, of which there have been a number in recent months. It had been our hope that by ignoring these irresponsible acts, the Union officials would appreciate our forbearance and make an earnest attempt to put a stop to this sort of thing rather than condone or even promote it.

"This last occurrence, which possibly was entirely due to the irresponsibility of the Steward involved and perhaps was not condoned by any of the Union officials, raises serious question in our minds as to whether disciplinary action should be resorted to in order to more effectively discourage such actions. I feel it only fair to tell you that if there are any more instances of this kind we intend to take much more positive action than in the past. I trust this will not be necessary, however, since I feel that you and your Assistants are in a position to avoid these situations quite effectively.

"Very truly yours,
A. C. STEVENS,
Asst. to Works Manager."

Jandreau's Reply to Stevens

Jandreau sent the following answer to Stevens Wednesday:

"Dear Mr. Stevens:

"We have your letter of March 31, referring to a work stoppage in the new Turbine building.

"You know that it is our policy to live up to the contract and to make every effort to settle all disputes amicably and avoid any stoppage of production.

"It appears to us that the way to do this is to get at the source of the trouble, rather than to threaten shop stewards and members with disciplinary action.

"If good will and smooth relations, which have a direct bearing on production, are to prevail, it seems to us that it will require the joint efforts of the company and the union in expediting complaints and reaching settlements satisfactory to the employees.

"We find that there is considerable dissatisfaction among our members in the plant and specially in the Turbine Division over the speed-up methods used by department heads. In the Turbine Division, the changes proposed and established for speed-up purposes since the new building opened have been radical compared to anything done since 1937. These have brought such complaints as:

- 1) Machines speeded up, especially in connection with the use of carbonyl tools.
- 2) Increased work load on service help and other day workers, and the sudden addition of new duties to the normal prescribed duties of such workers.
- 3) Reclassification of material movement jobs from A to B.
- 4) Change of 8-hour shifts to 6½-hour shifts.
- 5) Arbitrary transfer of second shift employees to the third shift, resulting in a cut in earnings.
- 6) Reclassification of tool crib keepers from A to C.

"In addition to these specific points relating to the Turbine Division, we are faced with the increased resistance on the part of supervision in all divisions to the settlement of complaints, the general speed-up and so-called cost reduction drive at the expense of the employees, and the frequent disregard of seniority. To this must be added the company's refusal to submit long unsettled grievances to arbitration when requested by the union. This is a direct violation of a basic provision of the contract, and a provocation to trouble.

"It is the feeling of our members that the company has been taking an increasingly tough attitude because it feels it can rely upon the Taft-Hartley law in driving its employees and refusing to settle their just complaints. In the face of the company's record on grievances in the past twelve months, it is ridiculous to imply, as you do, that union officials are not trying to achieve the peaceful settlement of grievances that they are promoting work stoppages.

"As a matter of fact, the company's actions have made it increasingly difficult for the union leadership to induce groups of members to refrain from taking direct action when they feel themselves aggrieved and feel they have no reason to expect a settlement through the normal grievance procedure.

"Your suggestion of disciplinary action does not seem to us to offer

What's That?



"... And let's save time by keeping the Taft-Hartley law as is and repealing the name."

UE Wins Pay Raises In New York Shops

Wage increases and other gains are included in five contract renewals recently negotiated by UE Local 475 in New York City.

The union obtained a wage raise of 12½ cents an hour and an additional paid holiday at Atlantis Steel Products Company.

Konecky Brothers agreed to an increase of 11 cents an hour. Modern Carpet Sweeper Corporation granted a 10 cent raise, plus an additional paid holiday. Both A. W. Rosen Company and Transplastic Company also agreed to 10 cent pay boosts.

a solution. That sort of policy will promote more trouble than it will stop.

"Your letter was read to our shop stewards' council last night. The stewards want the company to know that they have every intention of living up to the contract. They also want you to know that they will resist any attempt to penalize any shop steward or other members for actions for which supervision, by its conduct, is primarily responsible.

"We suggest that when supervision proposes departures from the present practices and conditions in the shop, these proposed changes be discussed with union representatives in advance instead of arbitrarily putting them into effect.

"Very truly yours,
LEO JANDREAU
Business Agent."

Taft-Hartley Law Overlooked This

A news item that appeared in the Gazette recently ought to give Taft-Hartley lobbyists a new argument to show the law isn't as tough as it could be.

The news story reported that in Scotland medieval laws providing for people to be hanged, drawn and quartered have just been abolished. This sentence was last passed in Stirling in 1820 on two men found guilty of "advocating strike action."

However, the men were granted clemency. They were only hanged and beheaded!