

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 9 — No. 1

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, Jan. 19, 1951

Wage Reopener— March 15th

The membership-stewards meeting went on record to instruct the delegates to the G.E. Conference Board to fight for a substantial increase, particularly for the day workers.

In the Schenectady G.E. plant the majority of employees in our bargaining unit are day workers. The ratio between day workers and piece workers runs approximately 10,000 day workers to 6,000 piece workers. The day workers have a long-standing complaint that they are affected by the speed-up equally as much as the piece-workers, but their rates are frozen at the job rate. A day worker's job rate is usually three rates below a piece worker's job rate for the same job. Likewise, a piece worker is expected to exceed the job rate when working at a pace in excess of normal incentive performance.

The percentage of day workers is much higher in the Schenectady plant than in many other plants of the Company. This confirms to a great extent the fact that day workers are apparently producing at such a satisfactory rate that it does not pay the Company to convert to piece work.

Along with the speed-up that affects piece workers as well as day workers, quality has gradually increased and the jobs become more complicated; however, the job rates usually stay frozen. The Union was able to rectify some of this injustice during 1950, when we managed to get the Company to raise the job rate of over 4,000 day workers in the Schenectady Works in addition to the 10¢ general increase; however, approximately 6,000 were not considered by the Company. Among those jobs that were increased the rates are inadequate, particularly in the skilled occupations. A considerable number of skilled jobs were not considered at all.

Another serious injustice are the rates paid to women and the gradual increase of skill on jobs generally done by women. Women's rates are practically confined to job rates below common labor, which is \$1.29 per hour. Yet, among the jobs done by women, it requires months to learn the work, along with considerable background and experience.

Economic Stabilization Prices — Wages — Taxes

Matles Inducts Union Representatives

James J. Matles, Organizational Director, gave the oath of office to the officers, Executive Board members and shop stewards present at the joint stewards - membership meeting. In his induction speech Matles pointed out that U. E. would fight against a wage freeze, or a tax increase on the working people. He stated that the U.E. would apply for an audience with the Economic Stabilization Board and present to them the views and position of our Union.

Matles pointed out that the U. E. was continually growing with new members coming into the organization. He said that he was present at a meeting in Lynn a week ago which was attended by 350 shop stewards representing the U.E. even though that plant voted I. U. E. in the N.L.R.B. election last year. Matles claimed that the I.U.E. was financially bankrupt after spending over a million dollars of the C.I.O. treasury in its attempt to break the U.E. He predicted that the I.U.E.-C.I.O. would continue to try to break up the Union in Schenectady if they were given the opportunity. They will still try with the help of outside organizations and governmental agencies, said Matles, but if you stand united and solidify your members, they will not be successful.



JAMES J. MATLES

The program announced by the Economic Stabilization Board, headed by Cyrus Ching of the U. S. Rubber Corp., will affect every working man and woman in the country.

The Board declared its intention "to minimize to the greatest practical degree the volume of money and credit available for spending on what will be at best a limited supply of civilian goods and services". This means a freeze on wages and heavier taxes for every worker. Existing laws and regulations guarantee that corporation profits can equal those levels existing between 1946 through 1949.

The 81st Congress has written into present price control legislation every loophole to avoid real price control. Instead of using the country's experience to make an effective law, that experience has been utilized to make present price control a hypocritical fraud upon the American people.

The Wage Stabilization Board also announced its intention for labor of "achieving more output per hour, working more hours per week". This means an attack on present contract protections for labor to promote speed-up and break down work week and overtime standards.

Emil Reive, President of the Textile Workers of America, who is the C.I.O. representative on the Stabilization Board, approved the Board's announced program. This action is not surprising when you check the record of the Textile Union. For three years this union has not requested an increase in wages.

The U. E. Stands for:

1. Immediate roll back of prices to pre-Korea levels, with strict price control
2. Lifting the present tax burden on wage earners and a corporation tax law to eliminate war profiteering
3. Compensation in wages for all inroads made upon earnings of the people through price gouging and for any advances in the cost of living that may be permitted in the future.
4. The right of workers to protect themselves against speed-up and

(Continued on Page 2)

New Meeting Schedule

Stewards & Membership—

Monday, February 5, 1951

2nd shift—1:30 p.m.

1st & 3rd—7:30 p.m.

Executive Board—Monday, Jan. 22,
1951, all shifts—7:30 p.m.

Union Meetings On New Schedule

The membership and stewards approved a recommendation from the Executive Board for a new schedule of Union meetings, to be effective for a trial period of three months.

On the new schedule the stewards and membership will hold joint meetings once a month, which will be on the first Monday of each month. Special or emergency meetings may be called by either the officers or Executive Board.

The Executive Board will hold a regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month, the second meeting to be on call.

The second shift will hold their joint membership-stewards meeting in the same manner as the first and third shift. The second shift joint meeting will be held the first Monday at 1:30 p.m.

The purpose of this schedule is to encourage larger meetings with less inconvenience to the members.

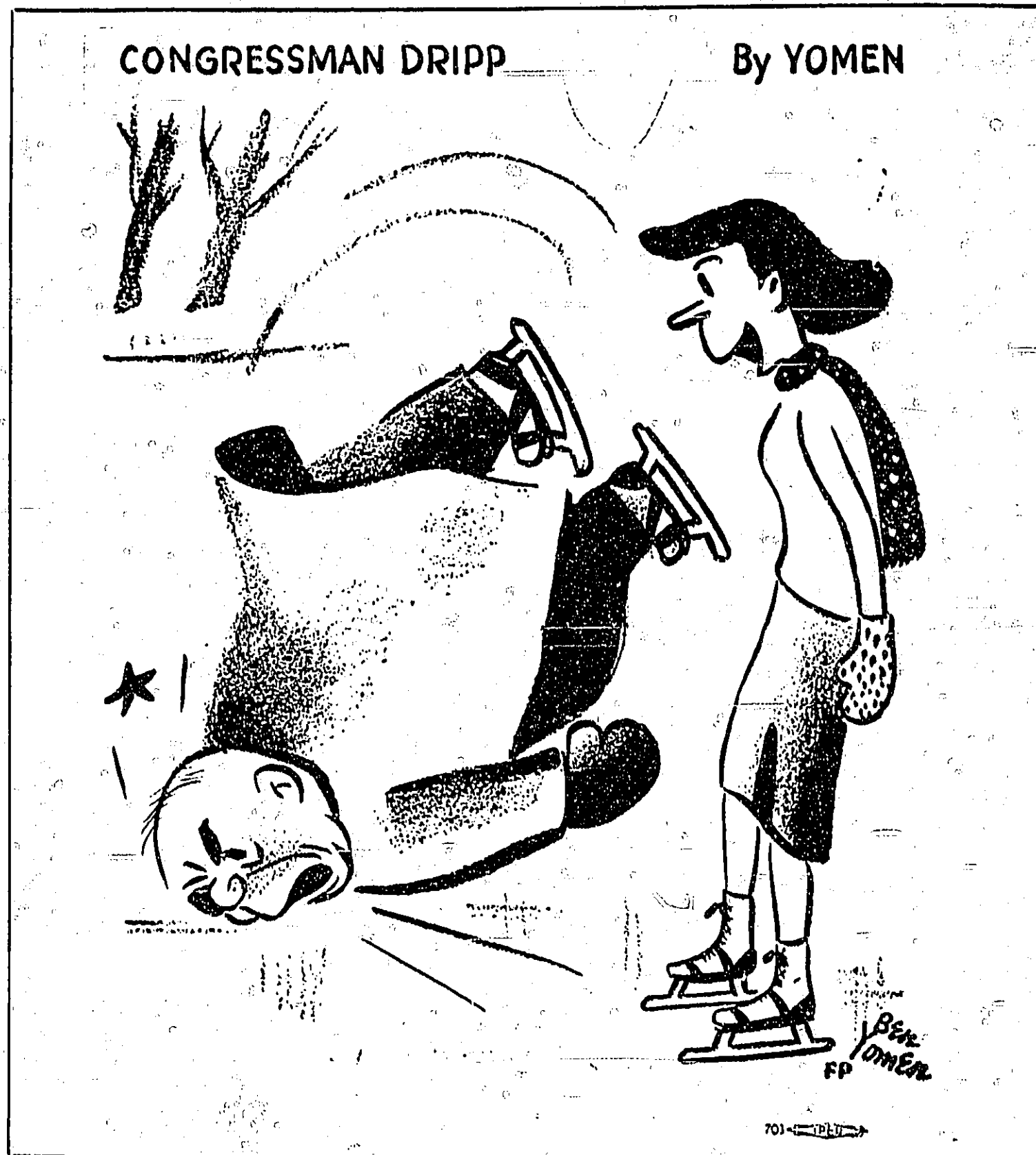
Compensation Awards

During the months of November, December and up to January 11th through Attorney Leon Novak the Union gave service to members having compensation claims, numbering 448 hearings in court for that period.

Novak reports that there are 750 compensation cases now active in his files. Most of the 448 hearings involved persons with disabilities arising out of accidents, to whom weekly payments are being made. Final awards of \$100.00 to \$6,600.00 for permanent injuries were awarded to 60 workers totaling the sum of \$60,785.74 during this same period. These cases were closed. The remaining cases are still pending for continued compensation.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301 U.E.

Published by the Editorial Committee
President.....WILLIAM J. KELLY
Vice-President.....JOSEPH MANGINO
Recording Secretary.....JOHN P. GREEN
Asst. Recording Secretary.....FRANK D'AMICO
Treasurer.....HENRY KAMINSKI
Chief Shop Steward.....JAMES COGNETTA
Business Agent.....LEO JANDREAU
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.



"Don't complain, dear. This will give you an idea of what a wage freeze is like."

Economic Stabilization Process — Wages — Taxes

(Continued from Page 1)
against destruction of their work week, overtime, vacation and holiday standards.
The U.E. will fight against:
1. Further wage cuts in the form of taxes
2. A wage freeze
3. Speed-up and the destruction of contract protections covering incentive earnings, the standard work week, overtime, vacation and holiday provisions and seniority.

G.E. Conference Board Delegates

The membership elected three delegates to the General Electric Conference Board for 1951 at the joint Stewards-Membership Meeting. The delegates for the ensuing year are:
William J. Kelly
Fred Pacelli
Leo Jandreau

Committee to Survey Executive Board Representation

The Executive Board set up a committee, which was approved by the stewards and membership, to survey the plant on Executive Board representation. The Executive Board was increased last year in preparation for the NLRB election. As a result of this increase, the members of the Board do not represent proportionately the membership of the Union.

The committee members who will conduct the survey are:
Anthony Esposito, Bldg. 53
William Stewart, Bldg. 273
James Cognetta, Bldg. 52
Joseph Kernaghan, Bldg. 40
The committee will also consider requests from shifts and groups asking for representation on the Executive Board.

Report on Election Committee

The Election Committee reported the results of the elections held for 1951 to the joint membership and stewards meeting held at Union Headquarters Tuesday, Jan. 9th. The report was approved by the membership.

The Election Committee declared the following elected:

President	William J. Kelly	Bldg. 273
Vice-President	Joseph Mangino	77
Recording Secretary	John P. Green	66
Asst. Rec. Secretary	Frank D'Amico	53
Treasurer	Henry Kaminski	76
Chief Shop Steward	James Cognetta	52
Business Agent	Leo Jandreau	Union Office
Sergeant-at-Arms	O. B. Phillips	285
Guide	Troy Snipes	46
Trustees	Harold Simpson	28
	Joseph Whitbeck	69
	Edward Lubarda	17

Those elected Executive Board members are:

Section	Bldgs.	Board Member
1	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Joseph E. O'Rourke
	22, 23, 24	Neil J. Dube
	25, 26, 28	Harold D. Simpson
	100	Lawrence L. Parker
2	5, 37	William Delos
3	K-1, Malta, Flight Test, Alplaus	Anthony Villano
	12, 14, 16 Annex	Joseph Kelly
	16	Joseph Belak
	12, 14, 16, 29 (2nd shift)	George Quick
	29	Americo Brunetti
4	15, 17, 19	Sidney Friedlander
5	18	William Christman
	40	Joseph Kernaghan
	46, 48	Serafin Pita
6	42	Roy V. Schaffer
7	50	Dante De Cesare
8	52, 60, 64, 66	Mario Bagnato
9	53, 49 Fire Patrol	Anthony Esposito
	67, 69, 71, 73, 73A, 75, 77, 79, 234	William Mastriani
10	68, 72, 76, 238, 241	Henry Kaminski
	80, 84, 227	Robert Jacobsen
11	81, 89	Dewey Brashear
12	57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C, D, 99A, B	Robert Phillips
	101, 105	A. J. Spears
13	107	Vincent W. Palazéke
	60, 273, (Building Trades)	Miles G. Moon
14	85	Edward J. LaBombard
	93, 97, 109	Fay R. Hildreth
15	59, 269	
16	273—South-East rectangle bounded by a line running from east wall along Broadway west to the Office space and from that point south to the front of the building	Marvin Rumrill
	273—2nd shift of above section	Joseph H. Alois
17	273—balance of building (days)	William Stewart
	273—2nd shift	Ralph Vitallo
18	273—3rd shift of all Turbine	Larry Gebo
19	285	Sam Scott
20	43, 49, 61, 65	James De Masseo
21	11 Test, 13, 13F, 61, 63, 259, 265	Charles Renus
22	CAP, Race Track	Floyd Thomas
23	Women-at-large	Virginia Murphy
24	2nd shift at large	Fred Pacelli

Annual Auditing Committee Elected

According to Local 301's Constitution, we are obliged to elect three members to take an annual audit of the finances, along with the certified Public Accountant, who audits the books of the Union each quarter. The members of this committee cannot be officers or shop stewards. Also, this audit is in addition to the audit made by the elected trustees of Local 301.
The joint stewards' and membership meeting elected the following to conduct the audit:
T. McGrath Bldg. 52
J. Steslow 273
T. Adamkiewicz 53

Civic Group Representation

A group of Schenectady citizens set up a committee for the improvement of economic understanding in Schenectady. The group is known as "The Schenectady Committee on Economic Education." The committee represents business, labor, civic organization, and representatives of the Educational Department of Schools. The committee plans to investigate ways and means of giving greater emphasis to economic education in our schools. Methods of doing this, according to the committee, will be by meetings of teachers and citizens of the community for the purpose of discussions with some of the Nation's leading economists.

Vice-President Joseph Mangino will represent Local 301 on the committee. Economic education has been sorely neglected in the curriculum of the school system. Of course, the type of education given is of the utmost importance. Slanted viewpoints favoring select groups cannot be considered as educational or constructive. However, facts and information affecting the majority of the people and their livelihood are essential and should be given objectively to the school children as well as the adults in our community.

Membership Drive

The annual membership drive is under way. Each steward was given a form to list every employee working in the group. This list will be checked for membership and the steward and Executive Board member will be notified as to those employees who do not belong to the Union.

At the present time more than 11,000 Schenectady GE workers are members of Local 301 U.E. There has been a constant demand for a Union Shop coming from large sections of our membership. The delegates to the GE Conference Board will raise this question at the next meeting of the Board as to the procedures in arranging an election on this question.

Every steward is urged to get his list in as quickly as possible in order that the non-members may be counted in the shop.

The Union Office is setting up a new procedure on compensation assistance. In order to get legal assistance from now on, the claimant must obtain a statement from the Union Business Office to the effect that he is a member in good standing of Local 301. The shop stewards will be checked in handling grievances to make sure that the workers involved are members of Local 301.

President Wm. Kelly Acts On Resignations

President William Kelly pointed out that some I.U.E. supporters were urging members to resign from the Union by offering them mimeographed form notices and assistance in mailing the notices to the Union. We have received a total of 25 such resignations, and the management has been notified that we will not tolerate any individual who spends his or her time causing disruption in the shop and attempting to break the Union. Kelly stated that at the next Membership Meeting he will call for strict enforcement, starting Jan. 1st, 1951, of Article XI of the Constitution. This provision in the constitution requires a member who has become delinquent in dues to pay all back dues plus an initiation fee which will act as a fine. The time has come, says Kelly, when our Union must deal with the few sympathizers of outside organizations who are continually agitating trouble for the majority of the people. Likewise, we must make those people who collect the hard-won gains of our Union and yet refuse to join and pay their share, stand up and be counted.

Kelly continued that it is the responsibility of every Union representative and member to report to the officers the names of any individuals who are carrying out a program to harm Local 301.

Local 301 Pension Club Elects Officers

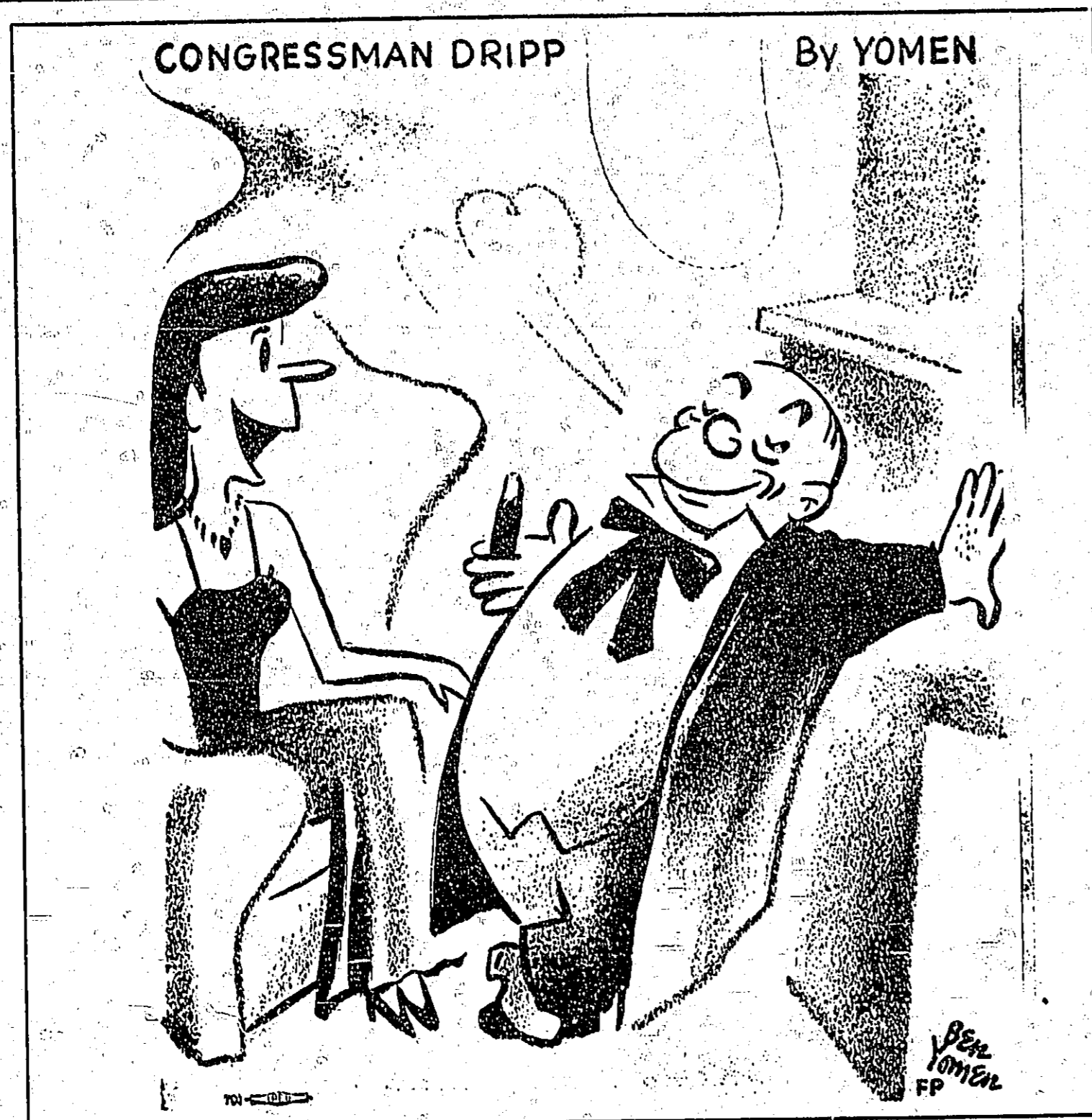
Albert T. Van Der Zee.....President
Frederick E. Helmboldt..Vice-President
Hiram J. Warner..Secretary-Treasurer
Executive Committee:

The three officers and E. Wassel, William MacNaughton, B. Kusherles, and G. Witze.

Dist. No. 3 Council Meets in Schenectady

The District No. 3 Council will hold its quarterly meeting in Schenectady on Saturday, January 20th, at 1:00 p. m., at Local 301 Headquarters.

All officers and board members and stewards are invited to attend this meeting as observers. It is expected that at least 75 delegates from U.E. locals from different parts of the State will be present.



"And now that prices are at a safe level I don't mind freezing them — along with wages."

Membership Approves Committees

Constitution Committee

George Walker	Bldg. 73
Stanley Aldhous	269
Anthony Campriello	52
George Quick	14
Roy Lash	273
Frank Emspak	46
Kenneth Sheehan	273

Legislative Committee

Whole Executive Board.

Sub-committee of Executive Board —
5 members to handle current legislative problems.

Serafin Pita	Bldg. 46
William Stewart	273
Dewey Brashear	81
William Christman	18
John Green	66

Finance Committee

Henry Kaminski	Bldg. 72
Miles Moon	85
Marshall White	Union Office

House Committee

Roy Shaffer	Bldg. 42
Larry Gebo	273
James Cognetta	52
John Mangino	77

William Mastriani	73
Charles Renus	13

F.E.P.C. Committee

Floyd Thomas	CAP
Helen Quirini	Bldg. 89
Rosster Lighthail	46
Sadie Iovinella	89
Larry Gebo	273

Defense Committee

Serafin Pita	Bldg. 46
Joseph Kelly	16
Dewey Brashear	81
William Stewart	273

Editorial Committee

7 general officers of Local 301

Grievance Committee

Chief Steward, Recording Secretary, Business Agent and Executive Board member with steward involved in the case.

Activities Committee

Michael De Celli	Bldg. 273
Charles Dougherty	52
Phil Cognetta	52
Ida Caprio	53
Elizabeth De Nicola	81
Ralph Pipe	52
Michael Rakvica	53
O. B. Phillips	285

Attention G. E. Workers Members of U.E. Local 301

Wages . . .

The U.E. contract provides for a wage reopener on March 15, 1951. At that time the Union will enter into negotiations with the Company for a wage increase. At a regular meeting Local 301 members went on record to make a fight for a substantial increase for day workers. There are approximately 10,000 day workers and 6,000 piece workers in the Schenectady plant.

Washington officials are doing everything possible to bring about an immediate wage freeze. Some of them are talking about a longer work week with the elimination of overtime premiums. Rising prices have wiped out every round of wage increases since World War II. The U.E. appeared before the public members of the Economic Stabilization Board and presented the Union's position, pointing out that prices have been constantly rising and the tax increases will amount to wage cuts to the workers.

Company Profit . . .

General Electric is currently earning 23 percent on its stockholders' investment.

Manufacturing corporations are paying themselves about 53 cents in profits for every dollar they pay out in wages.

Economic Control Agencies . . .

The Government agencies administering the Defense Production Act are completely dominated by representatives of big U. S. corporations.

C. E. Wilson, former G.E. President, Director of Defense Mobilization, controls jobs, wages, prices and virtually everything else.

W. Stewart Symington, former President of Emerson Electric Company, advises the President on coordination of military, industrial and civilian mobilization.

Eric Johnson, former President of National Chamber of Commerce, is Administrator of price and wage controls.

Cyrus Ching, former Vice-President of U. S. Rubber, is Administrator of wage control.

Taxes . . .

Along with the wage freeze and high prices, the workers will be hit by increased income taxes and plenty of hidden taxes on things they will buy. For an average family earning from \$3,000 to \$3,200 the total direct and indirect taxes: Federal, State and Local, comes to between \$600.00 and \$700.00. The 20 percent increase in withholding taxes, effective Oct. 1, 1950, seemed like a big increase. Actually it raises about 2.7 billion altogether. With 20 billion needed the outlook for 1951 will mean tax increases.