

Second Meeting Today On Third Shift Work

Union representatives are to meet with the company this morning for the second grievance session on the demands of Turbine third shift workers. The third shift wants to be able to earn 40 hours' pay in five days, and complains of repeated discrimination in the distribution of overtime.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau, other grievance Committee members and a special committee of third shift members, met last Friday with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager. The union representatives urged that the Turbine Division be operated with three shifts of eight hours each, with a 20 minute lunch period paid by the company.

Ask Eight Hour Shifts

Jandreau pointed out that the three eight-hour shifts are already in effect on some boring mill operations. He said that varied schedules have always caused complications and dissatisfaction in Turbine.

"There are rumors that the company is planning plenty of changes when it moves Turbine into the new building," he said. "Why not use this opportunity to put in an eight-hour schedule and clean up this problem?"

Stevens agreed to consult the Turbine management and other executives on this proposal.

Other Proposals

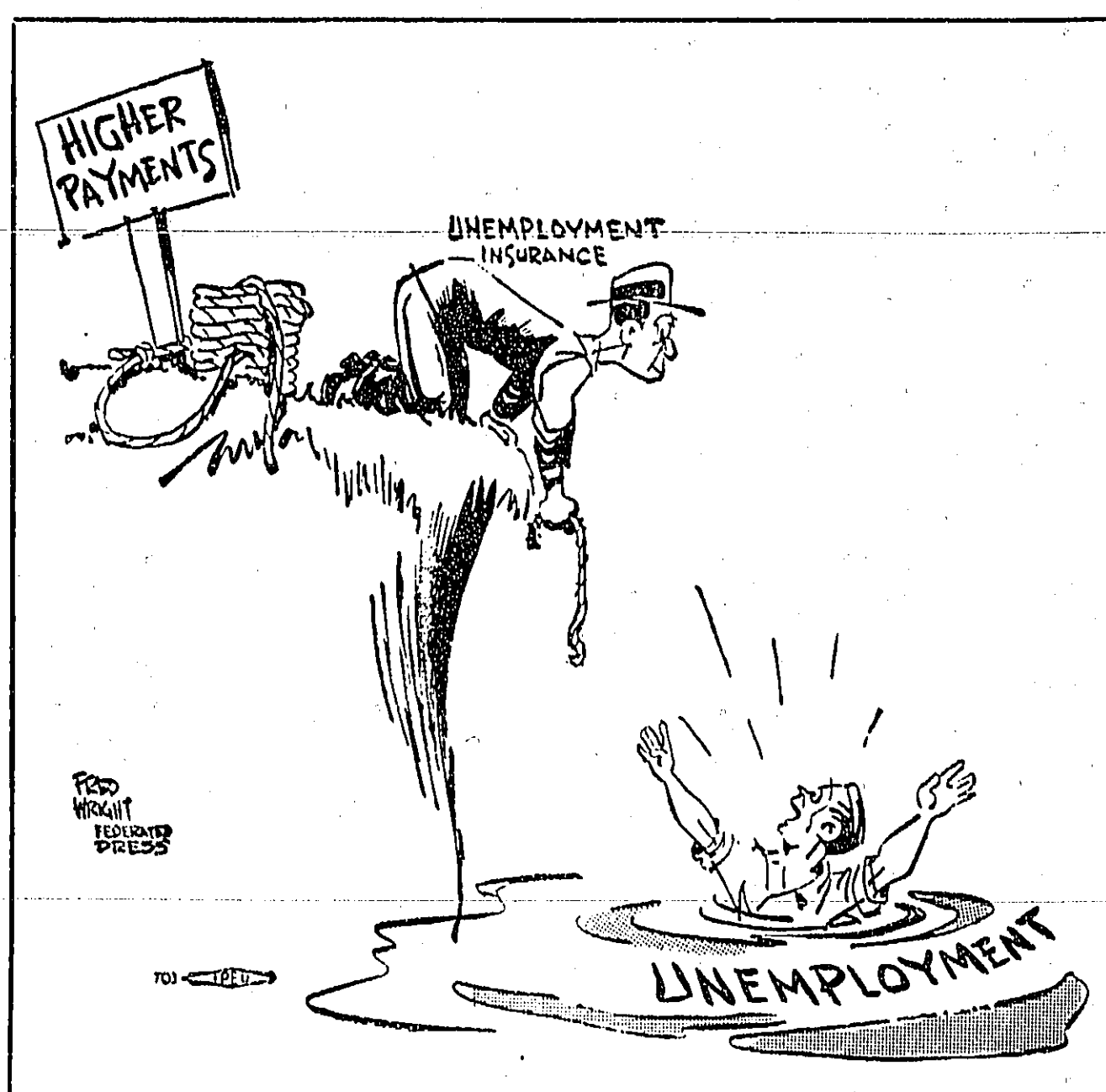
For the time being, the union asked that the third shift work five nights of six and a half hours each from Monday night to Friday night, with a five-hour extension to noon Saturday at time-and-a-half, for a total of 40 hours' pay. The committee also proposed that when Turbine is on a six-day schedule the third shift should start work at 8 p.m. Sunday. This would give third shift workers take-home pay that would be more comparable with that of first and second shifts. Stevens agreed to take these proposals under consideration.

A special meeting of third shift workers Jan. 21 at the union hall decided on the demands to be presented. In preparation there was an earlier meeting and questionnaires were distributed in the shops by third shift stewards.

Basketball Victory

The 301 men's basketball team defeated the Varsity Five Monday night 48 to 24 at Oneida Junior High School.

Wanted— Real Insurance



Stewards Vote to Raise Fund for Waldron Home

The shop stewards Tuesday night voted to launch a drive for money to finish Garry Waldron's home. Waldron, a Local 301 member, lost both his legs in World War II. A volunteer fire company has been raising funds to build him a home, but several thousand dollars still are needed.

The following volunteered to act as the 301 committee: President Frank Kriss, and Shop Stewards Louis Schuster, Building 52; Pierce Siler, Bldg. 28; Harry Bayliss, Bldg. 52; Raymond Greiner, Bldg. 60, and Manuel Fernandez, Bldg. 266.

\$10 for Scout Lodge

A \$10 donation to Boy Scout Troop 66 of St. Anthony's Catholic Church was voted by the Local 301 Executive Board Jan. 24. The money will go toward completing the troop lodge under construction in Glenridge Rd. This lodge will be used by all Scout units and by social organizations.

\$1 1/2 Million Gains

Nearly a million and a half dollars in wage gains were won by members of UE Local 1114 at Chicago during 1948.

Gaeth Broadcast

The Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by UE, is at 10 p.m. Monday on WXXW, Albany (850 on your dial).

GE Speed-up Swings Workers Toward UE

Workers at the unorganized Telchtron Inc. (owned by the General Electric Company) at Worcester, Mass., are turning to UE for help against speed-up, rate-cutting and layoffs.

When they protested individually to management about working conditions, they were told to leave if they weren't satisfied. Here are some of the bad conditions which have developed recently:

The clock conveyor personnel was cut almost in half but the production required remained the same.

About 50 automatic screw machine operators, on jobs brought from the UE-organized plant at Ashland, Mass., are classified lower than Ashland operators and are forced to run five instead of four machines.

There has been a 17 per cent cut in the bonus of unit conveyors.

Universal winder operators were told to run two machines instead of one.

On Grievance Committee

The Executive Board members who are permanent members for February of the 301 Grievance Committee are Sid Friedlander and Joseph Kelly. Albert E. Davis and Anthony Villano served during January. The committee also includes the business agent (or assistant) and the Board member involved in each case.

Is Your Shop 100% UE?

301 Approves Program On Jobless Benefits

The Local 301 program for improving the State Unemployment Insurance Law calls for eight amendments, including increasing the maximum weekly benefit from \$26 to \$35.

The proposals were part of the state legislative program adopted by the January 301 membership meeting on recommendation of the Executive Board.

In presenting the program Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, warned that the New York state fund is being drained of huge sums because of "kickbacks" provided for General Electric Company and other big corporations under the merit rating system forced through by the Dewey legislature two years ago. Repeal of the merit rating system is a basic point on the 301 program.

Other proposed amendments would:

Include agricultural, domestic, non-profit and all city and state employees in the coverage of the Unemployment Insurance Law.

Provide \$5 for each dependent of an unemployed worker. Some states already have this provision.

Remove the strike and lock-out waiting period.

Provide that strike benefits should not be considered as earnings. This would prevent disqualifying a worker who receives strike benefits from getting his unemployment insurance benefits.

Liberalize coverage of part-time workers.

Wonder How Much This Will Cost?

Hold your hats, Schenectady!

L. R. Boulware's annual newspaper show is starting in Lynn, Mass. Presumably Schenectady should be next.

The following news item is from "Editor and Publisher", national trade magazine of the newspaper industry, for Jan. 15:

"Lynn, Mass.—General Electric Co. will start a new community public relations program in the Lynn daily newspapers, according to A. W. Halverson of the management of the big GE plant here.

"Ads will be prepared in newspaper style and will tell how the Lynn plant and that of GE in nearby Everett functions as a neighborhood employer, and citizen in the community."

The news story said nothing about asking GE workers to work harder and eat less.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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Speed-up Mounts Throughout Plant

Grievances from all over the works indicate that the company's speed-up drive is reaching an all-time high.

Typical is the fact that the carboly speed-up move, which started in the Turbine Division in 1947, now has been started also in Building 16, Motor and Generator. The first step was a new ruling that hereafter carboly tools will be issued only by order. The union is protesting, as an immediate issue, the loss of time involved.

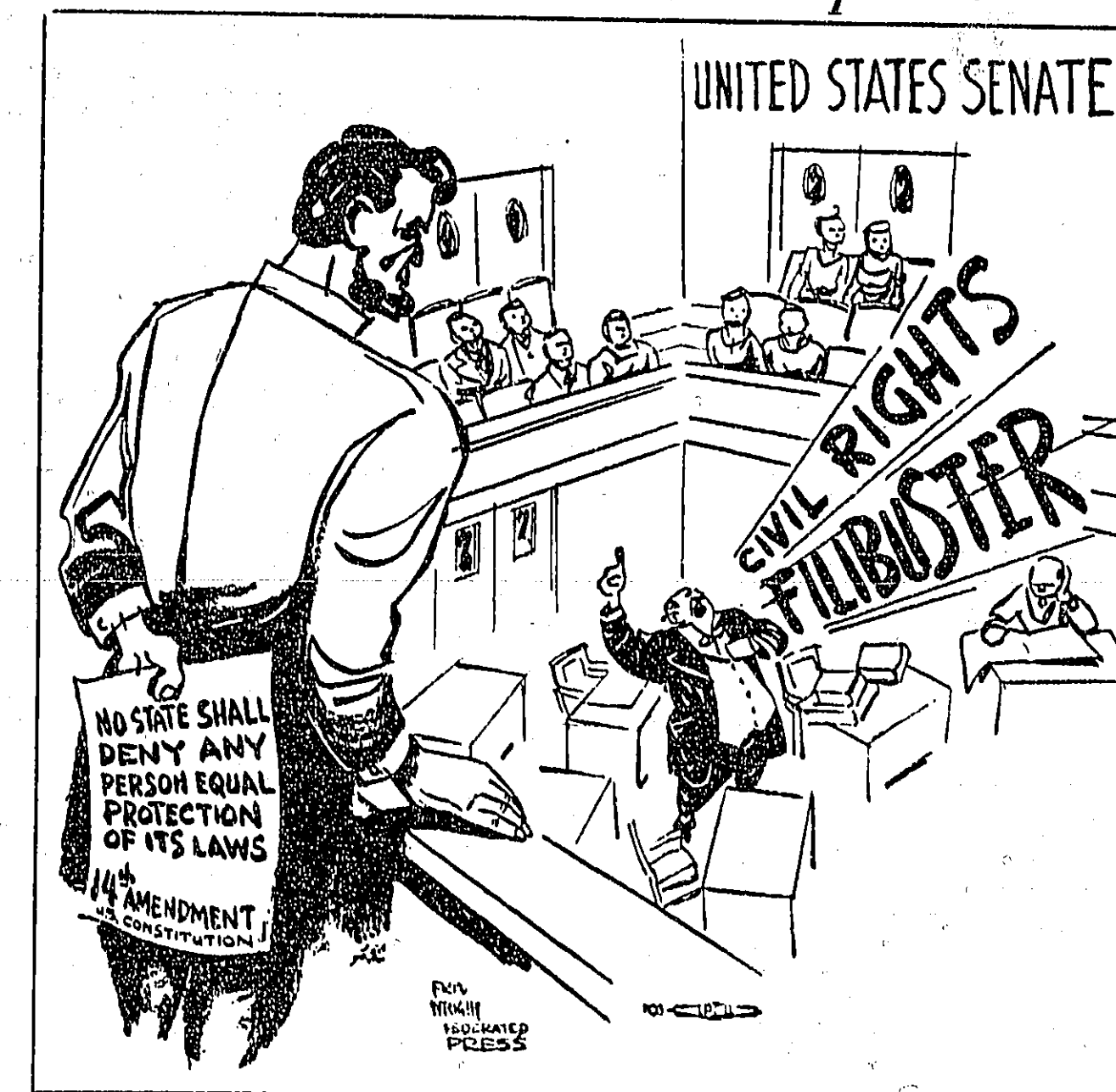
Increased Production

More important, however, is the method study being made in the shafting gang, on higher machine speeds through new grinding of carboly tools. In the Turbine Division this process has been spreading. The company takes the position that the increased production requires only the same earnings, while the union has demanded that increased earnings be made possible, since faster handling is required. The carboly speed-up has been spreading in other divisions also.

Another typical instance was the recent effort to cut a standard price in Carbon Products by building an identical mold with a new number.

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Needed— A New Emancipation



Hours Improve for Third Shift Workers

Management has agreed to part of the union's proposals on adjusting the hours of Turbine third shift workers, but has turned down the basic demand for three shifts of eight hours each, with a 20 minute lunch period paid by the company.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, at a grievance session last Friday okayed a proposal which the union has offered as an alternative until the straight eight-hour shifts can be obtained.

The arrangement which Stevens accepted has two provisions.

When the first shift works a five day week, the third shift will work five nights of six and a half hours each from Monday to Friday, with a five-hour extension to noon Saturday at time-and-a-half, for a total of 40 hours' pay.

When the first shift works six days, the third shift will start work at 8 p.m. Sunday to get in its extra day.

Workers will be notified on Wednesday what their weekend schedule will be, Stevens announced. At present they aren't told until Friday what their hours will be.

The arrangement will be "clean-cut," Stevens assured the commit-

tee, so that all workers in a group are treated alike. The new schedule should meet many of the complaints of third shift workers about discrimination in the distribution of overtime and not getting as much take-home pay as the first and second shifts.

In rejecting the proposal of three eight-hour shifts, Stevens made it clear that the paid 20-minute lunch period was the chief obstacle. Apparently management can't adjust itself to the idea of paying for even 20 minutes that aren't worked.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau pointed out that multiple shifts have always been a source of trouble and always will be, unless management is willing to let them operate smoothly and sensibly. Other Grievance Committee members and a special committee of third shift members also took part in the session.

March-of-Dimes Fund

March-of-Dimes contributions turned in at the union office by Wednesday totaled \$4,548.84.

NO MORE FREE RIDERS

T-H Danger Increases at Washington

National UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald has warned Local 301 by telegram of the growing danger "of serious Taft-Hartley amendments to restored Wagner Act."

Both Fitzgerald and Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, urged increased pressure by UE locals and individual members against stalling T-H repeal and crippling the Wagner Act.

The 301 postcard campaign is proceeding briskly and a number of stewards have gone back to the union office for more cards.

Contradictory Stand

The national CIO office has endorsed the administration bill although it contains provisions which the CIO condemned when proposed two years ago. In the same statement, the CIO office endorsed the bill and stated that it is "constantly opposed to any or all proposals involving use of injunctions in labor disputes."

The CIO statement said, "Administration bungling of the worst order played right into the hands of the Senate pro-Taft-Hartley Republicans."

Truman and Clark Statements

Right after Secretary of Labor Tobin testified that he opposes using injunctions in labor disputes, the CIO statement said, "a letter arrived from Attorney General Tom Clark which took just the opposite tack. Clark claimed that whether or not the bill provides for injunctions, the President has 'inherent powers' to get injunctions anyway."

Later at a press conference President Truman upheld Clark's statement about his "inherent powers." The Associated Press reported: "President Truman said he would have no objection to spelling his injunction powers out in the law, but didn't think it was necessary."

New UE Buttons

The union office has obtained a supply of the new UE buttons. Any member can buy one for 35 cents at the union headquarters.

GE Challenges Right of Retired Worker To Immediate Jobless Insurance Pay

The General Electric Company is fighting the unemployment insurance claim of a retired worker who contracted silicosis while working as a molder in ceramics, Building 68. The pensioner is Orresto Lazarro, 62, a GE employee for 40 years.

A highly skilled worker, Lazarro was getting \$1.72 an hour when he retired Nov. 1. Because of the heavy work required of him and the effect of the dust on his health, he found it impossible to continue on the job. Apparently there was no chance of getting another job at GE at a comparable wage at his age and with his specialized training. So he decided to leave the plant on pension and look for a job elsewhere. On leaving GE he at once filed with the Unemployment Insurance office.

The company demanded that the state suspend his unemployment insurance benefits for seven weeks, on the grounds that he had quit his job without good cause. The jobless pay was suspended pending final decision.

At a hearing recently before a state referee, the company claimed it had promised to find Lazarro a job in the plant, but was vague about the type of work or the wages. William Kelly, assistant to the 301 business agent, testified about the difficulty the union encounters in getting elderly workers transferred to other jobs at GE. Either nothing can be found for them or they have to take much less pay, in case after case. Decision was reserved by the referee on the Lazarro claim.

The fewer GE ex-employees are drawing unemployment insurance benefits the bigger the rebate is that GE gets from the state Unemployment Insurance Fund under the merit rating system. The company has a direct financial interest in depriving people like Lazarro of their unemployment insurance pay.

The Name Is Sommers

Kenneth Sommers, Bldg. 17, is a member of the Activities Committee. His name appeared by mistake as K. Simmons in last week's EU News.

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Stewards Back Meeting On Compensation Law

The 301 shop stewards' meeting Feb. 1 voted full support for the conference called by UE Districts 3 and 4 next Wednesday at Albany on ways to improve the Workmen's Compensation Law.

The vote was the stewards' answer to efforts of state CIO leaders to undermine the conference under the pretext that it is "a dual movement."

Business Agent Leo Jandreau reported that the January meeting of the State CIO Executive Board attacked the conference, and that State CIO President Louis Hollander and State CIO Secretary-Treasurer Harold Garo sent letters to CIO locals telling them to boycott the conference. It was reported they also contacted some legislators.

Wide Support Sought

The conference was planned to enlist the widest possible support. Invitations were sent to some AFL and railway unions as well as to CIO unions. Labor attorneys, physicians handling compensation cases, social agencies and civic groups have been asked to attend.

No important improvement has been made in the Workmen's Compensation Law in the last 35 years, Jandreau told the stewards. He pointed out that at the recent State CIO convention he had to press state leaders to have a Workmen's Compensation legislative program adopted that went beyond simply asking for higher compensation.

UE Has to Take Lead

Although Hollander is a member of the state Workmen's Compensation Advisory Committee he has not initiated any statewide action, such as the conference UE has called, to fight for improvements.

The 301 membership meeting in January endorsed the conference and elected Helen Quirini and James Cognetta as delegates. Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, also will attend. The call to the conference was issued by Jandreau, District 3 president, and Ruth Young, District 4 secretary.

The Executive Board meeting Jan. 24 reaffirmed its approval of the conference.

JOIN THE UNION



414,900 Lose Jobs In Early January

Some 414,900 persons in the United States lost their jobs during the week of Jan. 2 according to claims filed for unemployment insurance. The figure is 75,000 more than in the preceding week and 150,000 more than in the corresponding week a year ago.

Only about half the workers in the country are eligible to receive unemployment insurance. Undoubtedly the total number losing jobs that week was considerably higher than the 414,900.

Chance To Air Views About Bus Service

Members are asked to send to Morton F. Lewis, care of the union office, their views on the current Schenectady bus service.

Lewis, a Building 46 shop steward, is a member of the Joint Legislative Transportation Committee. He wants the members' views for a meeting of the committee Feb. 21 which will decide whether recent route changes shall be made permanent and the reduced schedules approved.

Write Brother Lewis a letter or card, stating the bus route you use, your views on the routing and schedules, and any other suggestions. This should be in the union office by Feb. 20.

Speed-up Mounts Throughout Plant

(Continued from Page 1)
The union forced a reversal of this cut.

The speed-up also takes the form of a constant reduction in so-called indirect help, the day workers on service and maintenance. This has meant laying off men with long service, placing them on lower-rated jobs, and placing a heavier load on the day workers remaining in the group.

Every year at this time there is an "efficiency" or "cost reduction" drive in connection with annual division budgets. This year, however, the drive is much more intense, and has evidently been pushed by the setting up of autonomous divisions within the works management. While the company defends the drive on the basis of economy and meeting competition, actually the drive comes at a time when GE is setting new profit records.

The only protection the workers have against this is the strength of the union and its grievance procedure. The contract contains piece work guarantees which must be enforced. Day workers are required to give a reasonable day's work, not to be speeded-up.

The long range situation will require real unity of the workers in each group and in the whole GE, and a drive for new contract benefits.

Lynn Meeting Urges Higher GE Pensions

Delegates to the UE conference at Lynn, Mass., Jan. 26 called for increased social security benefits and higher GE pensions. The meeting was held to discuss the problems of retired GE workers.

Those attending included 301 Vice-President William Hodges and a representative of the UE-301 Pension Organization, Fred Helmboldt, and delegates from Lynn, Bridgeport, Pittsfield, Syracuse, Cleveland, East Boston, Fitchburg and Philadelphia. Other GE locals sent messages and a letter from Albert J. Fitzgerald was read.

Budget Figures

The group decided not to recommend any specific figures but to leave decisions to the locals and the national UE. It called attention to the minimum budget (\$140 per month for a married couple at 65) estimated by the United States Security Board and the decency budget (\$220 per month for a married couple at 65) reported by the Heller Committee Survey of the University of California.

President Fitzgerald pledged UE will again raise with GE the question of adequate pensions and will talk to Congressmen, Senators and the President on the need for adequate social security payments.

The average social security payment is not quite \$25 a month, he pointed out. Social security payments to married couples average only \$30.60 a month. The amount paid by GE to its retired workers does not bring their income up to a decent standard of living.

GE Officials Get Big Pensions

"We are not asking for the \$5,500 a month which the president of General Electric will receive as a pension from the company," he said. We are not asking for the \$3,750 a month which GE will pay to the chairman of the board. Nor are we asking for the \$1,917 a month pension which one GE vice-president will enjoy.

"But we do believe that the average GE worker who earns for the company a profit of about \$1,000 a year is entitled to some fair share of these earnings."

Hodges reported to the shop stewards meeting last week on the conference.

301 Lawyer

Members of Local 301 can consult the union's attorney, 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 when other duties permit.



Gail E. Smith, retired Lynn GE worker, speaking at the recent UE conference on social security and GE pensions at Lynn. Seated are Fred Helmboldt, left, of the UE-301 Pension Organization, and Vice President William Hodges of 301.

GE Agrees to Cancel Piece Work Price Cut

A piece work price cut of more than 20 percent on a carbon brush pressing job in Building 64 was cancelled in a grievance meeting with Louis J. Male, works manager, last week.

Prices have been listed by molds. The cut was achieved by supervision in the division by making a new mold doing the same job as an old, but with a new number. Supervision claimed this made it a new job, subject to a new price. The union charged that this was a pure subterfuge, in violation of the contract. After considerable objection, Male backed down.

The case was presented by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, Shop Steward Vernon Millington, and Board Member James J. Cognetta.

All Stewards Required To Take Oath of Office

Taking the oath of office is required of every shop steward under the union's constitution. Although a steward is recognized in advance of being sworn in, he is expected to be sworn at the earliest opportunity.

At the start of every shop stewards' meeting and membership meeting there is a period set aside for swearing in of newly elected stewards. When a steward is sworn, he will receive a kit containing material he will need for his work, like the material mailed to stewards in recent weeks.

BUILD THE UNION

301 Asked to Help In Prudential Election

The Office and Professional Workers Union, CIO, has asked Local 301 members to help the union win its election to continue as bargaining agent for insurance agents of the Prudential Insurance Company. About 14,000 agents are eligible to take part in the election expected to take place late this month or in early March.

Schenectady agents have been subjected to intense company pressure not to join the union and a number of them do not belong to UOPWA. 301 members are asked to urge agents they may know to vote for UOPWA. Also on the ballot will be the AFL National Federation of Insurance Agents and the Independent Life Insurance Union of America. The company has been campaigning for the AFL and the "independent" union. Prudential has been using all the Taft-Hartley weapons against UOPWA, and has sent personal letters to all agents attacking the union.

301 Provides Help In Filing Tax Forms

A group of Local 301 members, experienced in making out income tax returns, will be on hand again tomorrow (Saturday) at 301 hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help union members with their tax reports. This free service will be provided 301 members every Saturday through Mar. 12.

Last Saturday about 60 members appeared at the hall to obtain assistance. In addition to the tax experts from the shops, the union attorney, Marshall Perlin, and the office bookkeeper, Emil Radosevich, were present. Board Member William Templeton has been added to the group to give Saturday tax service.

Workers should bring with them their W2 forms, the statements from GE showing earnings and withholding tax. Anyone getting part of his income from rents should bring in the duplicate of the income tax return he filed last year.

Kings Strike Victory Brings 12 Cent Raise

UE Local 475 has won its 13 week strike against Kings Electrolighting Company at Brooklyn. Chief gains are a 12 cents an hour general wage increase, an additional paid holiday, and the wiping out of the wage differential between men and women workers. The differential was eliminated through a 15 cents an hour boost in the minimum rates for women.

Meriden GE Workers Fear Plant Shutdown

Employees of the General Electric at Meriden, Conn., are living in daily fear that the plan will be shut down.

The plant management informed the 351 workers by letter that the company is now "making a decision as to whether we will further curtail or completely close Meriden operations."

The UE local has met with the company to urge that the workers jobs be saved. The mayor and newspapers have also appealed to GE not to close.

UNFAIR TO UE-CIO

HOOVER VACUUM CLEANERS AND ELECTRIC IRONS

Belmont Radios
sold also under these brand names:
Tru-tone Airlines
Coronado
Freshman Television Sets
Raytheon Belmont
Television Sets

Don't Buy Products Made By These Anti-Union Firms
UE NEWS SERVICE. 374