

Ballot Examination Called Too Limited

Andrew Peterson, president of Local 301, last week rejected as meaningless an offer by Supreme Court Justice John Alexander to allow him to examine a limited number of the ballots cast in the Democratic Congressional primary contest Aug. 24.

Judge Alexander's order would have let Peterson inspect only about 250 ballots already segregated as totally void and blank. Altogether there were about 1350 ballots listed as void and blank as to the Congressional race out of about 6,600 ballots cast.

Peterson was defeated by only 207 votes by the Democratic machine candidate, Professor William Murphy of Union College, according to election officials. Because of the closeness of the vote and the exceptional number of void and blank ballots, Peterson applied to the court for permission to examine the ballots. Justice Alexander heard arguments on the petition last week.

"Judge Alexander's order in effect denies an examination of the ballots," Peterson said in a statement issued Sept. 2, "while giving the appearance of doing the opposite. I have no intention of helping this appearance by accepting the order.

"It is noteworthy that my request for an examination of the ballots was opposed by the Democratic machine candidate, Mr. Murphy, and the bi-partisan election commissioners of Schenectady and Montgomery counties. What is there to conceal in this election?"

Pointing out that Judge Alexander's order would limit the examination to about 250 ballots already segregated as totally void and blank, Peterson declared:

"These are the very ballots among which it is least likely that error will be found. To check the correctness of the close count it would be necessary to look at the ballots reported void or blank as to my name, but counted valid otherwise. There was ample reason for permitting this."

Independent voters should be reminded by this primary experience Peterson declared, "that they must organize themselves to elect their candidates, and must do so by such margins that there will be no doubt of the outcome."

Peterson will be candidate for Congress on the American Labor Party ticket in the Nov. 2 election on a platform drawn up by representatives of CIO unions and the Farmers Union last winter.

Introducing Some Newly Elected Shop Stewards



Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, at left, swears in four new stewards at the Aug. 31 stewards' and membership meeting: Left to right, Bernard Piorowski, Bldg. 26; Leonard Hofmeister, CAP; Emmett Paige, 69, and Robert Armstrong, 18.

Presidential Election - - 1948

The national UE convention adopted the following resolution on the 1948 presidential election by a vote of 3,484 to 912 Tuesday in New York City.

"The thirteenth convention of the UE meets during the course of an important and unusual presidential campaign. A new political party has been formed. Naturally, the Democratic and Republican parties, which have so long divided between them all the rewards of political power, are now angrily claiming for themselves the exclusive right to represent the people of the United States.

"There are leaders in the labor movement who support this claim of the old parties and join in the hysterical red-baiting that the old parties have raised to preserve their political monopoly. These leaders excuse such action on the ground that one old party is less evil than the other. Others in the labor movement, without intending to do so, support the claim of the old parties to political monopoly out of fear that to do otherwise would be to waste their votes. This is a common fear, but history shows that it is not a long-lasting fear in this country. If it were, Abraham Lincoln could never have been elected President, nor could the few union-minded men and women in our great factories have built the industrial unions of the CIO.

"The UE convention rejects the old parties' claim to an exclusive joint jurisdiction over political expression in this country, just as Americans in former times have rejected similar claims of the old political parties of their day.

"There are some who have gone so far as to deny the right of the new party to exist, who would outlaw any form of independent political expression in America, and

who seek to impose political views upon union members by threats, coercion and expulsions. We condemn all such efforts, and although this convention endorses no presidential candidate, we expressly assert the right of any member, local or district of the UE to work for the advancement of the new Progressive Party, or any other political party. We condemn as well, the despicable attempts that are being made to substitute red-baiting for democratic and open discussion of the issues of the presidential campaign by the American people.

"We urge our locals to promote such discussions, with confidence that our membership will reject all efforts at political coercion and despite all appeals to rancor and prejudice.

"We believe that with the aid of such discussion the members of the UE will judge candidates upon their records and not upon the lip-service they give to the real issues that face the people. The people will decide whether we are to have peace, with a good living and security for the common people, or war, with enrichment of the profiteers and death and impoverishment for the rest of us."

Pfeif Will Discuss Crafts with Jandreau

U. S. Conciliator John Rooney, called into the local dispute over craft rates by direction of the last general meeting of the crafts, told the union Wednesday that George Pfeif, of top GE management will arrange a meeting with Business Agent Leo Jandreau when Jandreau returns from the UE convention.

In the meantime, the crafts here are continuing to refuse to work overtime.

The question of GE craft rates throughout the country is scheduled to come up tomorrow in New York City at a special post-convention meeting of representatives of GE locals of UE on the question. In a number of plants the skilled crafts have protested against GE's policy of paying them lower rates than its competitors.

Jandreau and Board Members Charles Ferris and James Cognetta will represent 301 at tomorrow's meeting.

In a craft rate fight in the Elmira Works of GE, all the pattern-makers have been taking afternoons off from work. They belong to UE Local 310. They went out the second time Thursday of last week. After the first walk-out, the local management agreed to take up the matter again with the Schenectady headquarters, but the men are pressing for prompt action.

London Broadcast

Arthur Gaeth will broadcast the radio program sponsored by the national UE from London at 10 p.m. Monday. Tune in on WXXW, Albany (850 on your dial).

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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GE Lists Number Of Jobless Women

Superintendent Louis Male told the union Wednesday that as of last Friday there were three women with 1943 service still laid-off and 10 women with 1944 service.

He agreed at a grievance session Sept. 8 to supply this information. He met at that time with Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, and a committee, to discuss the union's complaints about management violating seniority provisions of the contract in lay-offs of women.

The union demanded that the company observe the provision requiring "bumping" of shorter service people to give jobs to those with more seniority.

Male declared he was "not going to make a major interpretation of the contract". He said he objected to "multiple bumping" and that to enforce the "bumping" provision immediately on every lay-off would result in "multiple bumping."

As a matter of general principle, he said, he was in general agreement with the union on the matter, but the question was "how quickly can we do these things."

Male said he was not ready to say whether or not he was satisfied with the way personnel had handled this question, because in order to state an opinion he would have to examine each case.

The union pointed out that women with four or five years' service were still out of work while some with 1946 and 1947 service remained at work.

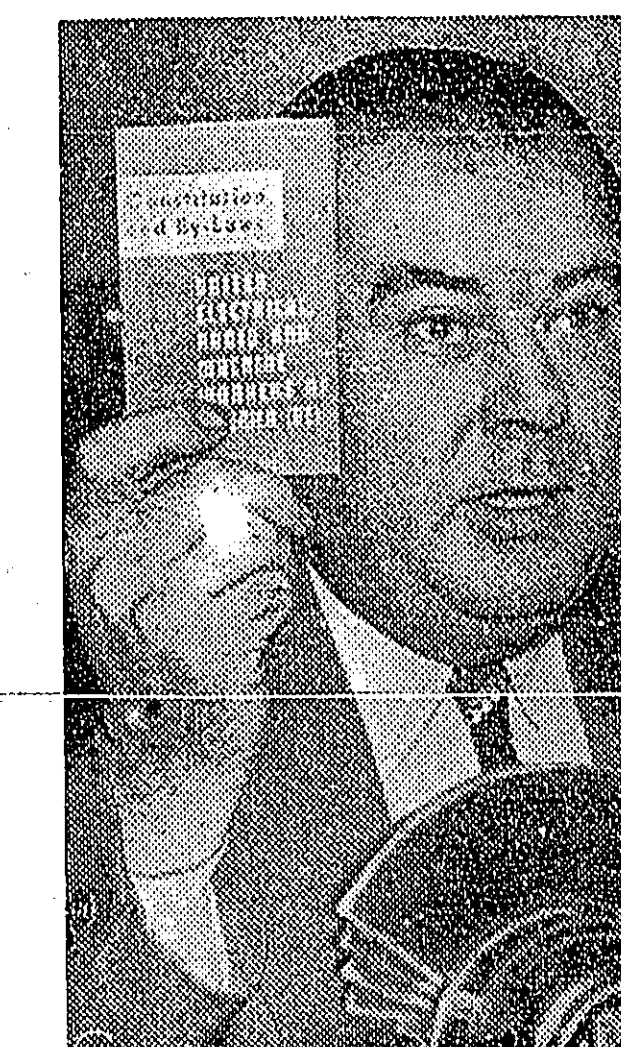
Male agreed to provide the union with information on the number of 1946 and 1947 women still working as of last Friday, along with the information on 1943 and 1944 women laid-off. The union had not received the 1946, 1947 data when the EU News went to press Wednesday.

Field Day Profit

Net proceeds from the annual 301 Field Day July 10 were \$2,877.13, the Activities Committee has reported.

UE Broadcast

Tune in on the Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, at 10 p.m. Monday on WXXW, Albany (850 on your dial).



ALBERT J. FITZGERALD (FP Photo)



Julius Emspak



James Matles

Albert J. Fitzgerald was re-elected president of UE Sept. 8 at the national convention in New York City by a vote of 3,652 to 719 for Harry Block of Local 101, Philadelphia.

Julius Emspak, a delegate from Local 301, was re-elected secretary-treasurer by a vote of 3,614 to 838 for Tony Cimino of Local 202, Springfield, Mass., and James Matles was re-elected director of organization by 3,827 to 594 for John Duffy of Local 613, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The picture of Fitzgerald printed above was taken in Washington Sept. 2, when the UE head was testifying under subpoena before the House Labor Subcommittee. He was photographed holding up a

GE Plans to Change Pay Days, Continuous Process Schedule

The company notified the Local 301 office Tuesday that it intends to change pay days to Friday and Monday, instead of Thursday and Friday, and to make changes in the schedule of continuous process operations.

GE claims that the payroll week for the plant must be changed, and the continuous process operations revised, on the basis of a recent United States Supreme Court decision on overtime pay in the case of the Longshoremen's Union, AFL. The GE changes are to be effective as of Monday, Sept. 20. The first pay day affected would be in October.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau immediately informed management that the court decision does not require these changes.

He urged that the present pay days be continued to give workers "a better break over the weekends". Waiting until Monday to be paid would be a real inconvenience to workers, he pointed out. Management agreed to consider the union's position on this question.

Jandreau demanded that before any new schedule is adopted affecting continuous process, the company should tell the union exactly

what changes are planned. Under the contract the company is obliged to consult with the union before taking such action, he pointed out.

He warned that the union will fight against any attempt to decrease take-out pay through such changes. The company agreed to meet with the union during the week on the problem.

David Scribner, national UE attorney, has sent a memorandum to all locals warning that employers are attempting to use the Longshore case decision "to undermine present contract provisions providing for premium payment for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays."

In the Longshore case the Supreme Court decided that if premium payment is made for onerous work on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays and off-shift hours, overtime under the Wage-Hour Law may have to be computed on top of such premium rate.

Arrangements Under Way For Meeting of Crafts

The union was in the process of arranging for a meeting with George Pfeif of top GE management on the dispute over craft rates when this week's issue of EU News went to press.

As U. S. Conciliator John Rooney of Albany, assigned to the case, has left on vacation Business Agent Leo Jandreau contacted Conciliator James Carroll of Syracuse.

The Joint Steering Committee of the crafts, which met Sept. 8 to discuss developments, decided to meet again after the conference with Pfeif. Meanwhile the crafts are refusing overtime work.

A report will be made to the Steering Committee meeting on the conference on craft rates held Saturday in New York City by GE delegates to the UE convention.

copy of the UE constitution to emphasize his point that, like the U. S. Constitution, it is "against discrimination for reasons of race, sex, religion, or political belief."

Campaign Workers

Volunteer workers for the Peterson-Gross campaign will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the union hall. President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 is candidate for Congressional representative on the ALP ticket and Dr. Walters S. Gross is candidate for state senator.

Convention Delegates To Report Next Week

Delegates to the national UE convention will report at the combined membership and stewards' meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night, Sept. 21, and the second part of the membership meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22, at the union hall.

The Tuesday night session is for all shifts of shop stewards and for first and third shift members. The Wednesday session is for second shift members.

The Executive Board Monday night approved a convention report by Leo Jandreau.

High Prices as a Campaign Issue

By BRUCE WAYBUR
of UE Washington Office

While Congress sat and talked through the special session, wholesale prices pushed past the peaks reached after World War I. Retail meats went as high as \$1.50 per pound. The current inflation became officially the worst in our history.

The Democratic Party has announced that it will make high prices the chief issue of the 1948 campaign. More specifically, they will make the Republican "doing-nothing" record on price control the chief issue.

The Republicans will reply by pointing to the Democratic record. It was the Democrats who removed price controls in 1945-46. Today, as the Democratic leaders well know, the Democratic Party couldn't muster a corporal's guard of its members in Congress to support price control. When the Democratic Secretary of the Treasury, John Snyder, went before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee during the special session, he said he liked price control about as much as he liked castor oil.

The Republicans will cover up their own record by investigating "Russian spies" in the Roosevelt Administration. The Republicans say the American people are much more interested in this issue than in the high cost of living.

This is a pretty crude attempt to fool the American people and take their attention from bread-and-butter issues.

The people called before Congressional committees as "spies" are New Dealers who served this country well both in licking the depression and in licking the Axis. After three years of investigation, costing half a million dollars, the Department of Justice says it has no evidence that these people broke any laws. The purpose is obviously to discredit the New Deal.

But the American people remember the New Deal as the one period when their government tried to do something for the common man. The average voter in November will be more interested in beef-steak on his table than in red herding in his newspaper.

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Board Backs Drive Of Community Chest

The Executive Board voted Monday night to recommend that Local 301 donate \$300 to the Schenectady Community Chest drive and cooperate again by assisting with collecting voluntary contributions in the shops. The campaign will be Oct. 1 to 13.

About 125 shop stewards from Schenectady CIO unions, most of them from 301 attended a chest meeting Tuesday night at Hale House, Union College. The United Steelworkers, the Transport Workers and Amalgamated Clothing Workers were represented. Officers of the Chest and representatives of affiliated agencies attended.

Local 301 Vice-president William Hodges, who is co-chairman of the drive at the GE plant, was chairman of the meeting. Speakers included Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Invited to speak freely on "beefs" about the Chest, many union members reported on complaints made in the shops. Most of the questions were directed at Dr. James Fish, superintendent of Ellis Hospital.

The Chest goal this year is \$394,146 to aid 23 agencies.

More Radio Shops Organized by UE

UE Local 430, New York City, has been recognized as bargaining agent for four more radio shops.

Recognition was obtained at the Commodore Record Company after an election conducted jointly by the union and management. The workers had shown their willingness to strike.

After short work stoppages, the Presto Recording Company agreed to recognize UE as bargaining agent for the previously unorganized workers in the machine shop and assembly divisions, on the basis of a card check.

A three-day strike won UE recognition at Electronic Instrument. The union negotiated a contract with a 10 cent wage increase, seven paid holidays and other improvements.

Local 430 organized the new Signature Recording plant at Shelton, Conn., and had the New York plant's contract extended to cover the Connecticut workers.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP BY YOMEN



"YOU WORKED FOR THAT NEW DEAL OUTFIT! I'M NOT HIRING ANY FOREIGN AGENTS!"

Registering to Vote

In order to vote Nov. 2 you must be registered.

Registration days in upstate cities and villages with over 5,000 population are Oct. 1, Oct. 2, and Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Oct. 9, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. You have to register personally every year in these places.

The towns and all places of less than 5,000 population have non-personal registration, but it's wise to look at the books yourself to see your name is actually listed. If you've moved into your election district this year or didn't vote last year, don't fail to put in a personal appearance. Registration in the towns and places of less than 5,000 population is Oct. 2 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Oct. 9 from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In Schenectady and nearby counties personal registration is required in the following places: Schenectady County - Schenectady and Scotia; Albany County - Albany, Watervliet and Cohoes; Fulton County - Gloversville and Johnstown; Montgomery County - Amsterdam; Otsego County - Oneonta; Rensselaer County - Rensselaer and Troy; Saratoga County -

UE Convention Action On Foreign Aid Program

The national UE convention went on record in favor of the United States participating in a foreign aid program based on the following principles:

1. It should be directly aimed at improving the living standards of the people.

2. It should be administered through the United Nations.

3. Interference in the political and economic affairs of nations should be rigidly excluded, both in the granting of aid and in the administration of the program.

4. Profits should be taken out of such an aid program by the reestablishment of the excess profits tax.

5. The United States should join with all countries in an effort to achieve world disarmament, working through the United Nations, thus lifting from the shoulders of the world's peoples the crushing burden of armaments and reducing the immediate danger of war.

Mechanicville and Saratoga Springs. You can enroll in a political party when you register in these places. In the towns, however, you enroll on election day.

Carey Denounced By UE Delegates

The resolution on "Exposure of James B. Carey," printed on this page, was passed by an overwhelming vote of the national UE convention.

Delegates voted to condemn the CIO secretary-treasurer and former US president for his attack on the union in his testimony before the House Labor Subcommittee at Washington.

Carey had testified for about four hours at the Washington hearing, and at the end told the Congressional "investigators" that he was treated "in a very, very fair manner" and had "rather enjoyed it."

Fitzgerald demanded that Carey tell the convention why he claimed that the union officers, staff and newspaper were practically agents of Soviet Russia and why he charged that employers were in collusion with the union to maintain "Communist control" of the union and get anti-Communists fired.

Press Carey for Answers

In the presence of the 1,000 convention delegates, Carey tried to avoid repeating the slander that he uttered at Washington. He avoided direct answers to questions and time after time delegates shouted, "Tell what you said."

Finally James Maties, director of organization, read to the conventions part of the transcript of Carey's testimony.

"Now deny that!" he challenged Carey.

Delegates from all over the country spoke up to refute charges Carey had made against the union and to expose specific lies.

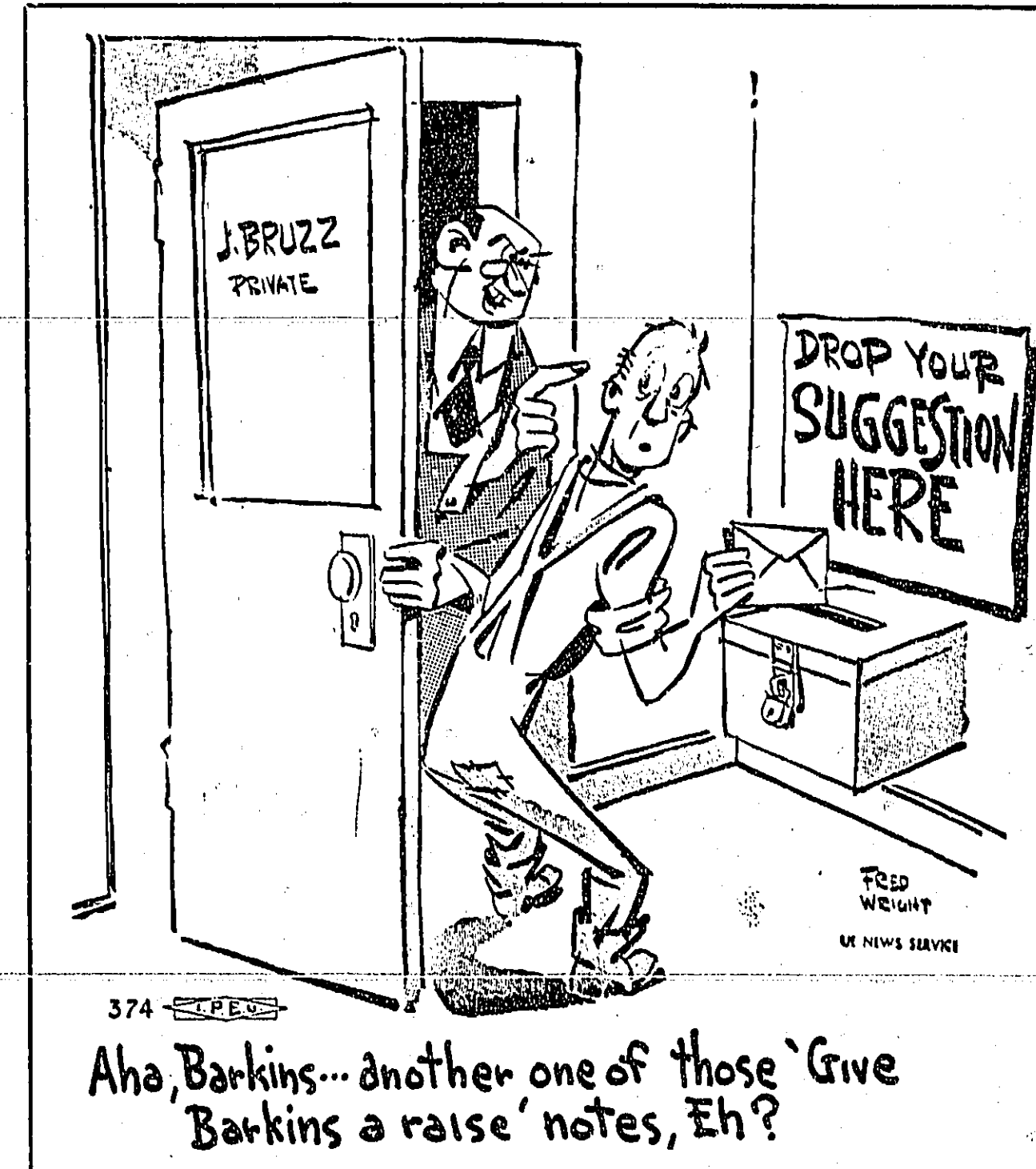
Here are two instances of the exposures.

Carey had testified in Washington that two of his supporters, Bert Enright, who formerly worked at Westinghouse plant in Jersey City and Sam Basmajian, who formerly worked at RCA in Camden, were fired because they were part of his faction.

Charges Refuted on Floor

A delegate from the Westinghouse local took the floor to explain that Enright was fired twice by the company for absenteeism. The first time the union got his job back. The second time the membership voted against processing the case, because Enright's absenteeism couldn't be justified.

In the case of Basmajian, John Leto, business agent informed the convention that Basmajian was given a leave of absence from RCA at his own request, to work for the



Aha, Barkins... another one of those 'Give Barkins a raise' notes, Eh?

Exposure of James B. Carey

The following resolution was adopted by a hand vote of about eight to one at the national UE convention.

"The Hartley Committee of the House of Representatives, the same that sponsored the Taft-Hartley Act and that helped the Unions Lens Company, the police and the Ohio Militia to break a UE strike, on September 2 in Washington opened a public campaign to slander and defame the UE and to injure the wages, conditions and job security of its members.

"The Hartley Committee gave the task of injuring the UE to two congressmen who are personal political enemies of this union as well as reactionary enemies of all working people. When these enemies of the union called James B. Carey of UE Local 101 before them, he did not defend his union. To further his own private ambitions he joined them to defame the UE, added to their slanders of his union and lied under oath to do so. He used his position in the labor movement to help these enemies of the union and of all working people to gain the widest publicity for their attack. He invited industry to refuse to deal with the UE to the detriment of the wages and conditions of the 570,000 workers under UE contract.

"The thirteenth convention of the Textile Workers. When the leave expired and the company refused to extend it, the union negotiated an indefinite leave for him. He can go back to his RCA job whenever he wants to. Leto brought along copies of the correspondence between the union and the company in the case.

Safety Measure

At least one big business thinks the political picture just won't bear talking about.

Pan American World Airways has ordered its stewardesses:

"When a passenger begins to discuss presidential possibilities while in flight, smile your best and leave graciously."

Want a Meat Scale?

Local 301 has two meat scales to sell. They were formerly used in the union's food center. Both are 1948 models and available at a big saving. Inquire at the union office.

Huge 1948 Profits In Electrical Field

As of mid-1948, UE had 1,501 plants covered by contracts. The general officers reported at the UE convention that 77 companies have been swallowed up and forced out of business and that employment in the industry has fallen off by 42,000 workers in the past year. "Material shortages have contributed to layoffs, but most important has been the drying up of consumers' purchasing power by corporation profiteering," the officers stated.

Higher Profits

The officers noted that 1948 first quarter corporation profits were at an annual rate of 19.7 billion dollars after payment of taxes—2.3 billion dollars more than the previous high in 1947. Electrical industry profits for the first quarter of 1948 were one third higher than in the same period of 1947, the officers pointed out.

Depression Standards

The officers noted that in the high profits-high prices economy "workers working 52 weeks a year could eke out only a depression standard of living."

"Not even in the great depression following 1929 did workers' purchasing power fall as sharply as it did between 1944-1947, when real wages dropped nearly 16 percent—despite wage increases," the officers stated.

The 1948 wage negotiations "carried on under great difficulties" helped partly to offset a \$13.03 per week average loss in purchasing power in the electrical manufacturing industry, they said.

First Voters Must Prove Literacy, Age

People who will vote for the first time Nov. 2 have to show proof they are 21 years old and proof of literacy when they register.

Birth certificates, military discharge papers or other certificates will be accepted as proof of age. A diploma from elementary or high school will establish ability to read and write.

If a first voter hasn't a diploma to show, however, he may be required to take a literacy test. For Schenectady residents, these tests will be given at the Education Building, 108 Union St. on registration days, Oct. 1, 2, 8 and 9, during the registration hours. The tests also will be given there today until 4 p.m., tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon, and Monday from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.