

301 Unemployed Map Active Program

The report of the 301 Committee on Unemployment, unanimously approved by the 301 membership and stewards' meeting last week, includes plans for activities of unemployed members of the union. These plans were drawn up by a committee of jobless 301 members and call for:

4 Point Program

1. Conducting a survey to determine the actual extent of unemployment in Schenectady.
2. Visiting welfare officials and relief agencies to learn what they will do to help unemployed workers in distress. Establishing a working relationship with these officials and agencies.
3. Organizing a citizens' committee of individuals or groups interested in fighting against unemployment. A principal activity of this committee would be pressing the City Council and County Board of Supervisors for necessary action in combatting joblessness and assisting the unemployed.
4. Setting up a service bureau within the union to begin to handle the varied problems of unemployed workers.

City Action Needed

The City Council will be asked to take at least the following actions: Start construction of municipal housing projects with federal aid. This would have the twofold result of providing jobs and alleviating the housing crisis.

Memorialize Congress to extend and increase 52-20, to increase social security and to start a large-scale public works program.

Urge Governor Dewey to call a special session of the legislature to increase unemployment insurance to \$40 a week, to start a state program of public works at union rates, to repeal the merit rating law, to start a state program of 52-20 benefits for veterans and to shift taxes from low to high income groups.

Take steps to stop evictions of unemployed workers and their families.

Support the union demand for a shorter work week with no loss in pay as one practical method of lessening unemployment.

Increase facilities of welfare agencies.

The county supervisors will be asked to adopt a similar program.

Did You Know?

In the first seven months of 1949 industrial production dropped 13 per cent, almost as much as in the first seven months after the 1929 collapse.

Gaeth Broadcast

Tune in on the weekly broadcast of Arthur Gaeth at 10 p.m. Monday on WXXW. The program is sponsored by the national UE.



Downs

William Downs, Local 301 treasurer, will leave the General Electric plant today on a leave of absence, under the GI bill, to start studying to become a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church. He has submitted his resignation as treasurer to the Executive Board.



White

White, former treasurer, shall White, former treasurer, to fill the unexpired vacancy, subject to approval by the September membership meeting. White was nominated because of his experience in the position.

Voting against White were Chief Shop Steward Stephen Watts and Board Members Raymond Flanagan and Stanley Bishop. Recording Secretary Frank Fiorillo abstained from voting.

Downs, who is 27, went to work at GE nine years ago and has been on a machinist-machine repair job in Building 17. He lives at R.D. 3, Amsterdam, is married and has a year-old son. During the war he served four years in the Marine Corps.

For two years he has been a lay preacher and has filled interdenominational vacancies. He will enter Central College of the Reformed Church at Pella, Iowa, in September, for a four years' course and then will study three years at New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



Civil Rights

The following resolution on civil rights was passed by the 301 membership and stewards' meeting last week to be introduced at the national UE convention next month.

"In calling upon the convention to take a clear stand in favor of the return to the Bill of Rights and against the present drive to suppress civil rights, Local 301 speaks from its own immediate experiences.

"Hundreds of its members have been deprived of union protection through a ruling of the Atomic Energy Commission in violation of the constitution and in collusion with the GE Company.

"Behind the cry of 'Security Regulations' of the armed forces, the GE Company is intimidating and harassing some 3,000 union members in Schenectady. The very men and corporations which did business with Hitler and built up the German war machine even after the war had started in Europe are now waving the flag in order to destroy democracy and the rights

Meeting With Male

The entire Executive Board of Local 301 was scheduled to meet yesterday (after the EU News went to press) with Works Manager Lewis Male on the unemployment situation. The Board planned to press again the union's complaints about the company's methods of handling lay-offs. Seniority provisions of the contract have been violated in many cases.

UE Wins Election

Workers at the Edell Company, Camden, N. J., voted for UE in an election conducted by the New Jersey State Board of Mediation recently.

"We call upon the convention to plan for an active and continuing fight against the prosecuting of any and all groups for their political beliefs, against undemocratic, un-American 'Loyalty' and 'Security' rules.

"We call for a fight to protect the rights of all minorities and in particular to stop the present campaign of violence against Negro Americans."

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

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Upstate UE Program Planned To Back Contract Demands

A meeting of 40 delegates from GE and Westinghouse locals throughout UE District 3 mapped an action program Aug. 25 at Syracuse to muster the greatest possible support in their communities to back the union's contract demands.

301 Wins Again In Arbitration

Local 301 and the national UE won another outstanding arbitration victory recently when an arbitrator ruled that grievance cases involving continuity of service are subject to arbitration under the terms of the UE-GE contract.

In three cases at issue, GE claimed that it could break service records at will and that the union had no right to take the disputes to arbitration. Arbitrator James J. Healy of the American Arbitration Association overruled this company attempt to nullify the contract's arbitration provisions in a decision handed down in late August.

Arbitrator Healy decided in two cases, involving men taken off jobs during the war, that the company must include the men's pre-war service as continuous GE service. GE had broken their service records when the two returned to work after being out the plant three years and a year and a half.

In the third case, involving a different set of circumstances, the arbitrator decided that GE did not violate the contract in breaking service. This case also dated back to war time.

Restoring the pre-war service of the first two workers will mean adding about 14 years to the continuous service of each. The union will insist that in correcting their service records GE also restore all connected rights and privileges.

The arbitration proceedings were conducted in Schenectady in June. International UE Representative Joseph Turkowski, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, handled the cases for the union.

Unemployed to Meet

There will be a meeting for unemployed GE workers Monday night, Sept. 12, at 301 Hall.

All the locals represented at the meeting have voted, at membership meetings or at plant-gate meetings on working time, to authorize their delegates on the GE or Westinghouse Conference Boards to call for a strike vote.

Plans are being made for a joint meeting of the national GE and Westinghouse negotiating committees before the two Conference Boards have their next meetings.

The following locals were represented at the Syracuse meeting, in addition to 301: Local 310 at Elmira GE; Local 320 at Syracuse GE, Local 326 at Fort Edward GE, Local 326 of GE and Westinghouse service shops, Buffalo, and Local 1581 Westinghouse plant, Buffalo.

Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent and president of District 3, was chairman. Other delegates from 301 were Board members John Brauneisen, Dewey Brashour, William Mastriani, Helen Quirini, and William Stewart.

Many Work Stoppages

Reports by delegates showed that at most of the locals there have been stoppages recently in protest against the companies refusal to settle grievances concerning lay-offs and speed-ups.

At Syracuse craftsmen staged a stoppage to press for an increase in their rates. GE has applied an area differential there and all rates are lower than in Schenectady.

Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board, reported to the District 3 group on the deadlock in GE and Westinghouse negotiations.

Wide Support Necessary

Speakers from the floor emphasized that the GE and Westinghouse negotiating committees of the union must be in a position to tell the companies that the union membership is "ready to fight it out", and that the locals must marshal the support in their membership. (Continued on Page 2)



Male's Boulware Letter

GE last week tried a personal approach to defend its indifference to the needs of its employees hit by lay-offs, downgrading and short time.

The attempt was a letter from Works Manager Lewis J. Male to every worker, referring to his personal acquaintance with many workers. The letter attacked as "bunk" the simple fact that the GE super-profits are made at the employees' expense.

It is Male's job to send out the material handed to him from the Boulware propaganda division. The workers are concerned with GE's actions, not personalities.

The Male letter tries again to sell the idea that GE profits "have been used . . . for more and better jobs . . ."

But loud cries do not change certain hard facts:

GE's profits have reached an extraordinary rate of return (39.5

per cent on investment for 1948). The high point led up to the lay-offs and general unemployment, exactly as happened in 1929, and for the same reason. Super-profits were made both times by GE and the other big employers through speed-up at the expense of jobs.

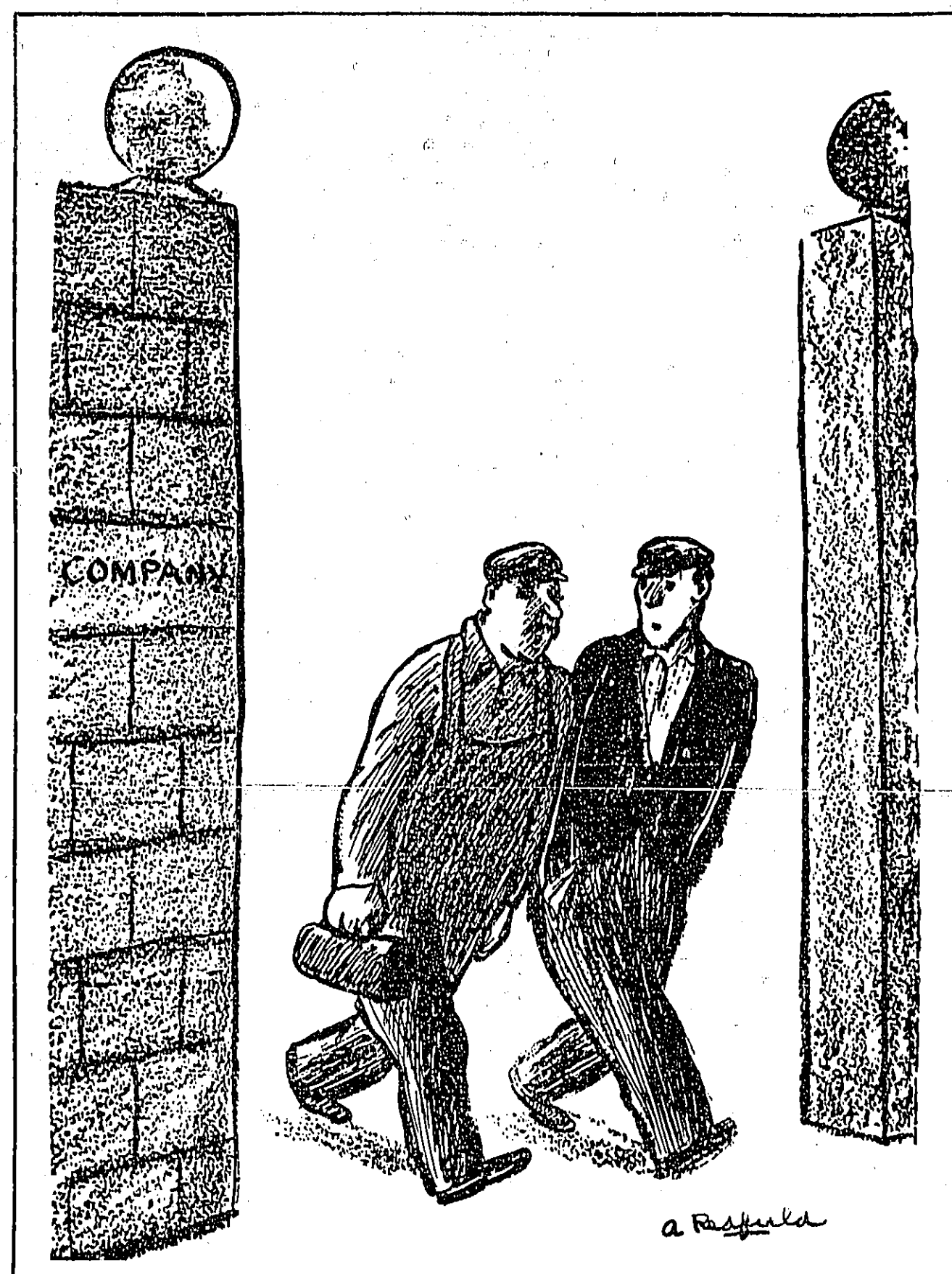
The profits are there regardless of whether they are paid out in dividends or reinvested in plants and equipment. GE has reinvested in order to make more profits. Such "spending" on plant and equipment simply raises the value of stock.

Schenectady workers are in a particularly good position to know that investment in plant and equipment is not to provide jobs, but to cut down the number of jobs.

The new Turbine building has (Continued on Page 2)

SAFEGUARD JOBS THROUGH THE 35 HOUR WEEK

Real Nice!



"Wasn't it nice of the boss to give us a permanent vacation?"

Upstate UE Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

ship and communities for such a fight.

The District 3 action program approved included issuing a District 3 paper during the contract negotiations, for both GE and Westinghouse workers. Local 320 suggested using part of the 301 EU News for this purpose, as was done last year during GE negotiations.

The program also called for department meetings, stepped up grievance activity on a local basis, enlisting support of members' wives, unemployed members, pensioners and the general community behind the union's contract demands.

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Male's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

been the base for the drive to speed-up production and make it possible to lay workers off.

Throughout the Hoover depression GE continued to make substantial profits. But the depression brought mass unemployment and part-time work for GE workers.

The most effective thing that the American people can do to slow down the depression is to force GE and companies like it to disgorge some of their profits in Higher Pay, Shorter Hours.

Factory Employment Declines in State

Manufacturing employment in New York state dropped in July for the fifth consecutive month, according to a report issued Aug. 24 by State Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi.

"The drop amounted to three per cent," he said, "bringing employment to a level approximately 10 per cent below that of a year ago." There were nearly 60,000 fewer

301 Board Protests GE Friday Inventory

Despite a protest by the 301 Executive Board, the company has notified the union that it will proceed to take inventory this year on Friday, Sept. 30.

Acting for the board, Business Agent Leo Jandreau wrote A. C. Stevens, assistant works manager, that the plan would mean a 20 per cent pay cut for one week for a majority of employees. He asked that inventory be taken on a Saturday as in recent past years.

Stevens replied that the practice before the war was to take inventory on Friday, and that this year "our production situation is such that we can resume our regular practice." He said this would not be true in the Turbine and Motor Generator Divisions, where only a limited inventory would be taken, which would not "interfere appreciably with production."

In the divisions affected, pay checks will be issued Thursday afternoon, Sept. 29, instead of Friday, Stevens said.

Spiking a Lie Spread by Carey

Of a total of about 450 locals with more than 500,000 members, only five UE locals with a total of 8,000 members are involved in questions concerning their representation at the coming national UE convention. These are the official figures.

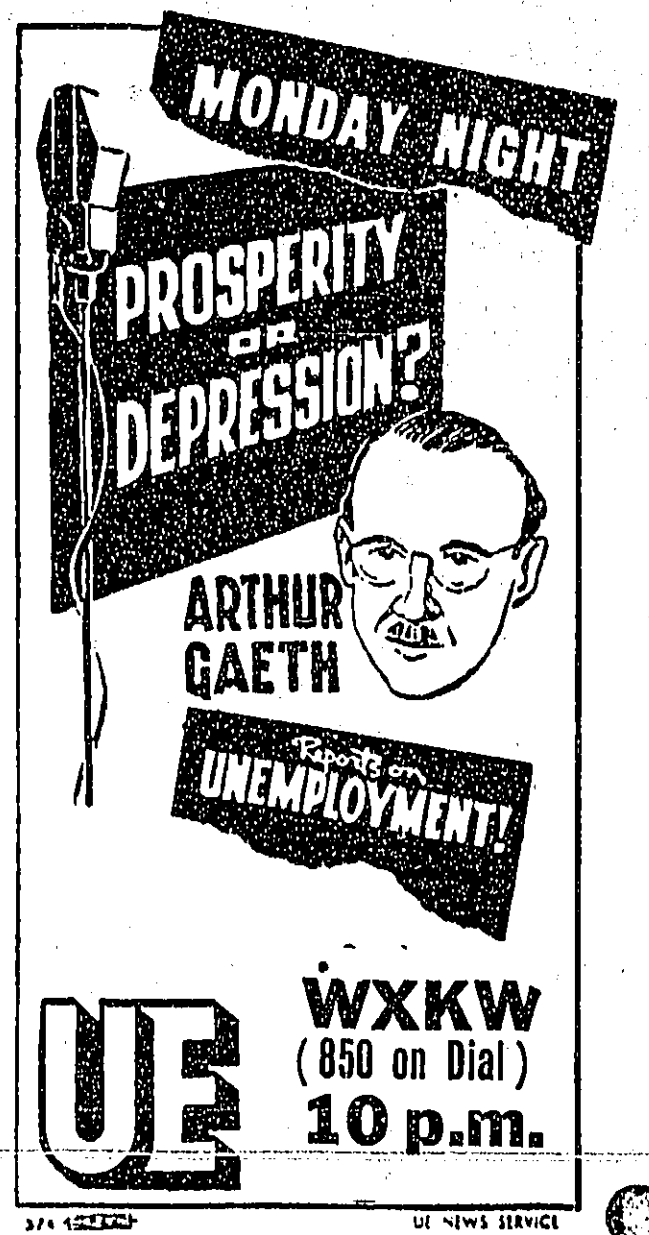
Nevertheless James Carey and his "Democratic Action" group are spreading the lie that the national leadership of UE is planning to disqualify some locals in order to "steal" the convention. Their propaganda is being spread by Victor Riesel, Hearst columnist whose work also appears in the Schenectady Union Star.

Delegates' credentials are being questioned in two locals by members of the locals. In the other three locals where there is a question about representation, violations of the constitution are involved. And in accordance with the constitution the questions will be settled by the UE convention itself, not by the national UE office.

wage and salary workers employed in manufacturing in July in this state than there were in June.

But Governor Dewey's Labor Day statement declares that employment conditions in the state "appear to be definitely on the mend."

ATTEND THE UNION MEETINGS



17,000 on Strike At Goodrich Plants

About 17,000 members of the United Rubber Workers, CIO, went on strike Saturday at B. F. Goodrich plants in seven states. The strike was called after negotiations for a new contract broke down last Friday just before the old contract expired.

The Goodrich company is one of the "big four" of the rubber industry. Contracts with the other three do not expire till next year but are renewable this year on wages.

The union stated its members were forced to strike because Goodrich "showed not the slightest interest in reaching an amicable settlement."

Contract demands of the union include a pay raise of 25 cents an hour, \$100 a month pensions to be paid by the company and health and welfare benefits.

The company wrote a letter to all employees complaining that business conditions would not permit them to raise prices and that if they increased costs (raised wages) they would lose business. Like GE, the rubber company apparently never thinks of paying wage increases out of its huge profits.

Primary Day

Next Tuesday, Sept. 6, is Primary Day. Polls are open from noon until 9 p.m.

Pensioners' Meeting

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, at the union hall.

\$3,120 Awarded For Hand Injury

A workmen's compensation award of \$3,120 was recently won by Marion Broderick, Building 285 punch press operator, for an injury to her right hand which took place in 1944.

Awards on other claims against the General Electric Company, handled through the union's attorney, Marshall Perlin, included:

\$1,381.40 to Hugo Fasching, tool and die maker in Bldg. 53, for injuries to his right leg suffered Oct. 29, 1948.

\$1,200 to Frank Vecchio for an injury to his left thumb Dec. 7, 1948. \$1,117.20 to Ralph Della Rocco, Bldg. 17 punch press operator, for injuries to his right hand Sept. 10, 1948.

\$768 to Luther Rasch, employed at chipping and grinding in Bldg. 52, for 15 per cent loss of vision of his right eye, as the result of an accident Nov. 5, 1948.

\$511 to Joseph Marinello, Bldg. 52 porter, for injuries to two fingers Dec. 26, 1948.

\$453 to John Kivestkowski, Bldg. 52, for 27 per cent loss of hearing in the left ear, as the result of an accident in 1947.

\$300 to Edward Zogata, Bldg. 77 machine repair, for a scar resulting from an injury Oct. 21, 1948.

\$250 to Robert Innes for a facial scar incurred Oct. 27, 1948.

\$225 to Thaddeus Gardocki, Bldg. 60 boring mill operator, for a facial scar incurred Nov. 20, 1948.

\$200 to Margaret Calkins, Bldg. 285 coil winding, for a scar incurred Mar. 15, 1948.

\$200 to Rowland Pugh, Bldg. 60 drill press, for a scar incurred Oct. 25, 1948.

\$185 to Henry Plourde, Bldg. 60 welder, for facial disfigurement in 1944.

\$171 to Clifford Pierce, Bldg. 60 sheet metal, for a toe fracture Oct. 4, 1948.

\$157 to Everett Perkins, Bldg. 50 packing, for injury to a finger Jan. 1, 1949.

\$150 to Richard Stokna, Bldg. 52, for a scar incurred Nov. 18, 1948.

\$147.20 to Wilfred Gero, helper on a lumber truck, Bldg. 107, for injury to a finger Oct. 17, 1948.

\$96 to John Crozier, Bldg. 46 tool and cutter grinder, for injury to a finger Nov. 10, 1948.

\$75 to John Gzyzewski, Bldg. 16 machine operator, for a facial scar incurred in June, 1948.

Stewards to Meet

The monthly meeting of Local 301 shop stewards will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the union hall.

MR. BLOWHARD



The Reason Prices Remain High

Why have prices stayed up? Industry has preferred to keep price and profit margins high even though it meant that production would be cut back and employees laid off.

Although industrial production has fallen 13 per cent from its 1948 peak and factory man hours have fallen 15 per cent, prices have decreased only three per cent.

This results from the situation in this country whereby basic industry is controlled by a few corporations which are in a position to fix prices to yield themselves the greatest profit. They keep prices high but cut production to maintain their profit margins.

Steel an Example

The steel industry is controlled by three main producers. With profits in 1949 far above record 1948 profits and with production falling, leading steel executives nevertheless state that prices will not decline.

Steel is preparing to repeat the experience of the 1929-32 depression when steel production fell 76 per cent but steel prices were cut only 16 per cent.

In a large part of the electrical industry, covering such vital goods as producers' electrical goods, refrigerators, washing machines, and electric lamps the same rigid control of prices is exercised.

For example, three companies, General Electric, Westinghouse, and General Motors, produce 60 per cent of all electric ranges; four

Political Action

This resolution on political action was passed by the 301 membership and stewards' meeting last month for introduction at the national UE convention in September.

"Political action by labor can be effective only if it is both genuinely independent and controlled by the membership.

"Political action in which attempts are made to deliver the votes of the working people to any political machine are bound to result in failure and constitute a betrayal of the basic interest of the union membership.

"The result of wrong political action by labor is found in the fact that the Taft-Hartley Law is still on the books, that progressive measures on Civil Rights, Social Security, etc. are not passed and that instead we have a rent law to boost rents, and a general repression of the rights of the people.

"We call for a return to genuine independent political action by labor. Not only must labor in every community back candidates on the basis of program without reference to political affiliation, but the labor movement must be prepared to pick its own candidates where necessary to carry out the legislative program of the working people."

refrigerator companies including General Electric, General Motors and Westinghouse produce almost two-thirds of all refrigerators; General Electric and Westinghouse produce 78 per cent of all incan-

U. S. Again Tones Down Unemployment Figures

In spite of optimistic predictions from leaders of the Truman Administration, unemployment for July, 1949 reached a new postwar peak.

The monthly estimate made by UE showed the jobless figure in the country for July as 6,900,000. The United States Census figures understated the unemployment figure by 1,800,000. As UE has revealed, the federal figures are toned down by the government practice of refusing to count as unemployed several large sections of the jobless.

While newspapers boasted of "an upturn in business" official Washington had to admit that unemployment had gone into the critical stage in many areas of the country. Dr. John R. Steelman, assistant to President Truman, listed in August 11 areas where 12 per cent or more of the population is out of work. They included Utica-Rome, N. Y. and Bridgeport, Conn.

10 Cent Raise

A three-day strike at Dependence Products Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., won their first UE contract for the workers recently, with a 10 cents an hour pay raise.

descent lamps. No wonder that despite large cutbacks in production, electrical producers have reduced prices but three per cent from last year's peak levels!