

Former Officers Confound Kersten

Four 301 shop stewards who are former officers of the union were called by the Hartley sub-committee Friday, but gave the two Congressmen no help in their efforts to show "Communist control."

The four were Edward G. Wallingford, Bldg. 60, and Frank Emspak, Bldg. 46, both former presi-



E. G. Wallingford S. Friedlander
dents, Roy E. Lash, Bldg. 60, former chief steward, and Sidney Friedlander, Bldg. 17, former treasurer.

Wallingford said he never was a Communist party member and that "if people are Communists and believe in the overthrow of the government, I have no use for them."

He then declared that he had heard about supposed Communists in the union for years, but "only by hearsay, gossip," and never heard any proof.

Wallingford answered a statement made the previous day by Salvatore Vottis, to the effect that Wallingford was "the Communist front in 1943." He said that in the 1944 fight, Vottis accused him of

Any Witness Good For Anti-Union Headline

It has been said many times that the only purpose of hearings like those before the Hartley committee is to furnish smear headlines. For an example, look at Friday's Gazette. A five-column head said:

"Reds Throttle UE Local, Ex-Union Member Says."

This was based on the testimony of Thomas Riggi. Riggi sat on the stand Thursday, squirming and making vague statements, pleading that he was not a stool pigeon. He named no names, gave no facts. He expressed an opinion about the union today, though admitting he had not been in touch with 301 for three years. Any court would have thrown out his whole story.

But it gave the Gazette its main headline.

Hartley Committee

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that inquiry into political and religious beliefs was in violation of the United States Constitution and the UE constitution.

Play for Members

Kersten and Fischer, who have a solid anti-labor record in Congress, issued a statement once more trying to associate themselves with the membership of 301 against the officers. They said the majority of officers had shown "not only contempt of this committee, but also contempt of rank and file members."

Kersten had indicated repeatedly

"controlling a company union." Wallingford continued:

"How could I have been a Communist front and also the head of a company union?"

Emspak said he never was a member of the Communist party, and that Vottis "never signed me up to anything. From the day I met Vottis, I never liked his ideas and his ways."

Emspak said he was now a member of the 301 Constitution committee, but declined to be drawn



Frank Emspak Roy Lash

into a discussion of amendment procedures. He said he would handle that inside the local.

Lash, refusing to answer questions about the rights of Communists, shouted at Kersten:

"We have a democratic Constitution which should be abided by. I know your record. I know you have a son as a page boy at \$200 a month which we, the people, are paying for. I know your committee is the enemy of the working people. I'll stack my record against yours."

Kersten got Lash off the stand fast.

Friedlander told Kersten: "I'll tell my beliefs to people who are sincerely interested, not to people who are trying to do a job for Charlie Wilson."

Kersten shot back: "What about those trying to do a job for Joe Stalin?"

"I don't know of any," Friedlander retorted.

that he hoped the 301 membership would disregard its constitutional provision against discrimination because of political beliefs, as well as the Bill of Rights.

None of the witnesses Friday gave any support to the committee's effort to show Communist control. Though left with nothing more than the discredited testimony of Salvatore Vottis and the virtually meaningless words of Thomas Riggi, both of whom testified Thursday, Kersten declared that charges of Communist control have not been "lessened," but in fact "have been strengthened" by the hearing.

Not "The Government"

Kersten and Fischer have been trying to give the impression that they are "the government." The fact is of course that they were elected to be public servants to carry out the wishes of the people.

Instead, they have taken advantage of the practice which developed in recent years in Congress, of using its authority to investigate in an attempt to attack political opponents and to control people's thoughts. They have no real authority to do this, no power of prosecution. Testimony is used mainly to furnish newspaper headlines. When Congressmen misuse their office for this purpose, it is not only the right, but the duty, of the people to challenge them and bring them back into line. President Roosevelt frequently denounced the methods of the un-American Activities committee as un-American. The Hartley committee uses the same methods.

Stewards' Meeting

The Local 301 Shop Stewards' Council will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 tomorrow night (Tuesday, October 5) at the union hall.

The Executive Board will hold a special meeting tonight to discuss a number of matters pending in the union's relations with the company.

The Free Press Again

Just in case any one doubts where the newspapers stand note this:

Statements of about the same length were issued Friday by Congressmen Kersten and Fischer on the one hand, and by Andrew Peterson and Leo Jandreau on the other.

Saturday's Gazette carried virtually the whole statement by the Congressmen on Page 1 in the main story. It gave the union officer six lines in the same story and buried another 16 lines on an inside page in another story.

Fitzgerald to Speak At Taylor Meeting

Albert J. Fitzgerald, national UE president, will be speaker Wednesday, Oct. 6, with U. S. Senator Glen Taylor at the Erie Theater. Fitzgerald will introduce the vice-presidential candidate.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau of Local 301 will be chairman of the meeting.

Where Does the Advice Come From?

Within the past few days Local 301 members have received the same advice, directly and indirectly, from Congressmen Charles E. Kersten and O. Clark Fischer, Hartley Committee inquisitors, and from the two Schenectady papers, the Union-Star and the Gazette. The "advice" fits in with the current propaganda drive of GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware.

The advice was most direct in the Union-Star's specially displayed editorial on Friday. The advice of all these outsiders to the 301 membership is that they should disregard the American Constitutional principle on which UE has grown strong, equality of all regardless of craft, age, sex, nationality, race, creed, or political belief. The advice is that they should get rid of their present officers because these officers do not meet the witch-hunting demands of the Hartley Committee. The advice is that 301 should adopt witch-hunting instead of judging members by their actions, in the American tradition.

Local 301 members will decide for themselves whether they want or do not want any or all of the present officers. That is their business, and theirs alone, despite advice from outsiders.

In deciding policy, the members will note from what kind of people the latest advice comes:

Two Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley law, to destroy price control, against housing, etc.

Two newspapers which destroyed the CIO union organization and their editorial rooms. Two newspapers which suppress statements from the union and blow up anything against the union.

Two Congressmen and two newspapers—four voices in tune with that of GE's L. R. Boulware.

Do union members want advice from them?

HAVE YOU REGISTERED? ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

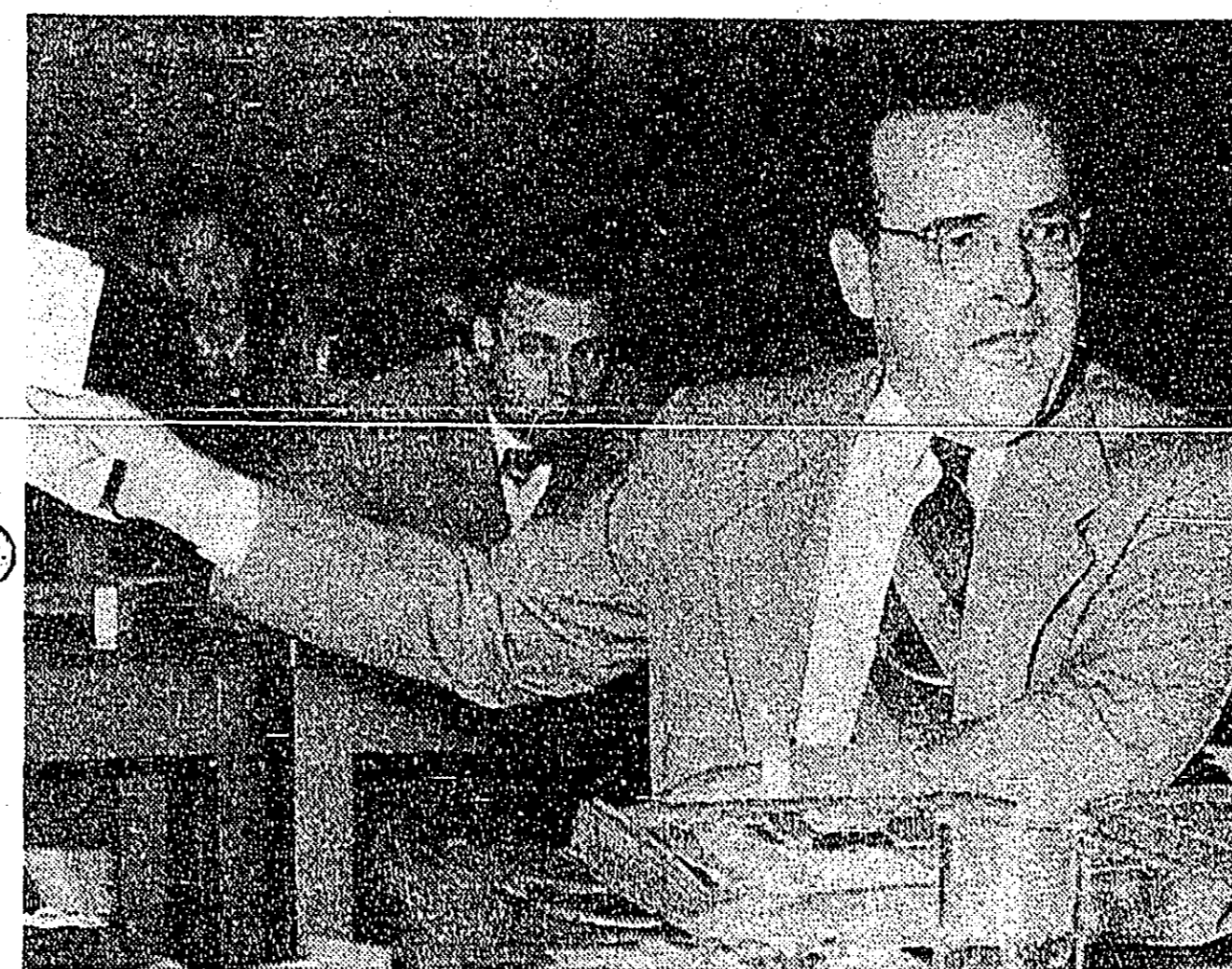
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October 8, 1948

Jandreau Accuses Hartley Committee of Forgery



The Hartley Committee last Friday gave Leo Jandreau no chance to enter into the record the papers he holds in his hand—proof that the Congressional committee stooped to forgery in Dayton, Ohio. During an "investigation" of UE at Dayton in August Congressman Clare E. Hoffman tried to frame UE Vice-President Lem Markland by producing a faked letter in which Markland supposedly asked UE organizers to send him information on "plant lay-out, floor plans, entrances and exits" of plants with UE contracts. Hoffman linked this letter with a so-called "Communist" plot. Markland had of course asked for no such information about plants. His actual letter to organizers was on routine business and he sent a photostatic copy to Hoffman. The committee has not retracted its smearing statement, however.

20 Workers Win Awards for Injuries Through Cases Handled by 301 Lawyer

Awards against the General Electric Company were made by a Workmen's Compensation referee in Schenectady recently in the following 20 cases of Local 301 members, handled by the union attorney, Marshall Perlin:

\$2,572 to Jerry Suburro for reduced earnings from May 10, 1944 to Sept. 13, 1948, as the result of a back injury June 10, 1943. Until he consulted the union attorney, who reopened his case, Suburro didn't know he had any claim for reduced earnings.

\$1,050 for Anglares Peretta for 50 per cent loss of the use of her right thumb in an accident Feb. 19.

\$196.54 to Ella A. Morey for partial loss of the use of her right middle finger in an accident last October.

\$200 to Edward H. Fick, Bldg. 16 assembler, for a facial disfigure-

ment, suffered Feb. 29.
\$128.80 to Catherine A. Porter for 10 per cent loss of the use of her right index finger in an accident Mar. 22.
\$28 a week from Apr. 13 to May 19 to Antoinette Ponzillo, Bldg. 60, injured last Nov. 14.
\$28 a week from last Dec. 1 to Jan. 15 to John F. Oberliss, who suffered a hernia last Sept. 12.
\$25 a week from July 21 to Sept. 15 to Keith R. Johnson, Bldg. 109, who suffered a ruptured intervertebral disc Apr. 28, 1943.
\$26 a week from June 25 to Aug. 9 and \$22.22 a week from Aug. 9

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Pension Organizations Arrange Joint Meeting

The UE-301 Pension Organization and the Townsend Clubs of this vicinity will have a joint meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at 301 hall to stimulate the program of liberalizing the present social security laws.

Speakers will include Merlin Casterlin of Binghamton, representative of New York State Townsend Clubs; Leo H. Vosburg, county commissioner of public welfare; 301 President Andrew Peterson, ALP candidate for Congress, and William M. Murphy, Democratic candidate for Congress, Congressman Bernard W. Kearney said he could not attend.

New York Meeting On GE Situation

The GE Conference Board of UE will meet Tuesday in New York City to take up:

The attacks of GE against the union.

The spreading by the company, with the assistance of anti-labor government agencies, of scare headlines and unfounded stories to create confusion among the membership.

The development of a fighting program in defense of the living standards and rights of the membership.

Delegates from 301 are President Andrew Peterson, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Treasurer Marshall White.

Jandreau Will Argue Seniority Cases Today

Cases which Business Agent Leo Jandreau is to argue today with GE management in New York City, include violations of the contract seniority provisions in the lay-offs of women. Management has admitted laying off women with longer service records while keeping some with less service.

Although some of the longer service women have been placed since the union pressed the grievance, the union considers it important to take this entire question to the New York level.

Atomic Ruling Aimed to Aid GE, Hartley

The Atomic Energy Commission's letter to GE, barring UE as representative of workers in the new Knolls II laboratory at Schenectady, was a carefully timed piece of publicity to help GE and the Hartley Committee in their attack on Local 301.

The crudeness of this high-powered publicity stunt was clearly revealed by the publication of the full text of the letter from David E. Lilienthal, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, to President Charles E. Wilson of GE and the reply from GE Vice President L. R. Boulware.

The order applies only to "Knolls II Atomic Power Laboratory". This building is still under construction and is not expected to be in operation for a year or more. Not a single UE member in Schenectady is affected now by this new order. Even the letter of Boulware to Lilienthal points out that the representation question at Knolls II "is in the future" and does not affect present representation.

Secret Discussions

The exchange of letters between GE and Lilienthal reveals that for a considerable period GE had been having secret discussions with the Atomic Energy Commission, in advance of the announcement of the anti-union order. It is clear proof of the charge made by Leo Jandreau in his radio speech Sept. 29, that Lilienthal's order was "cooked up in cohorts with GE" as a step in the direction of killing off collective bargaining on one type of work after another.

Evidently Boulware thinks Lilienthal didn't go as far as he should in helping GE's anti-UE campaign, for he calls the order on Knolls II only "a step in the right direction."

Fitzgerald Protests

UE will take every available step to protect the bargaining rights of its members who may be assigned to Knolls II, UE President Albert

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Compensation

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to Aug. 17 to Salvatore Castiglia, punch press operator in Bldg. 63, whose lower back was injured June 24.

\$28 a week from May 10 to July 26 to Anthony Baron, Bldg. 53 shipping department, whose left hand was injured May 7.

\$28 a week from May 3 to Aug. 3 to Zygmunt Poteralski, assembler in Bldg. 18, who left ring and middle fingers were amputated to the first joint as the result of an accident May 1.

\$28 a week to Frank Guido, who suffered a hernia July 7, 1947.

\$26.87 a week from June 8 to June 16, \$28 a week from June 16 to Aug. 2, and \$26.87 a week from Aug. 2 to Sept. 20 and for an additional month to John Pietzykowski, furnace worker in Bldg. 64, whose back was hurt Jan. 1.

\$25 a week to continue a month for Carmella Catalona, Bldg. 78, injured Dec. 12, 1946.

\$28 a week for a month to Fred Corvino, injured Mar. 15, 1944.

\$28 a week from Apr. 30 to June 21 to David Fiore, Bldg. 61, for injuries to his right hand and fingers Apr. 30.

\$4.62 a week from May 13 to Sept. 9 to Albert Kozlowski, for reduced earnings resulting from a compound fracture of the left leg Sept. 19, 1946.

\$28 a week for two weeks and payment of all medical bills for Chester H. Karbowski, who suffered an eye injury last Nov. 19.

\$8 a week from May 13 to Joseph Curcio, for reduced earnings resulting from a back injury.

\$28 a week from May 17 to July 11 to Willis P. Boyden who suffered a back sprain Feb. 19, 1947.

Situation Cools Off

As a result of union protests about intense heat in the hot welding booth in Bldg. 60, the situation there has been considerably improved. Five shells were taken out of the booth last Friday and the heat was turned off in the annex.

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Rank and Filers Hand It Back Too

Rank and filers were among those called by the Hartley Committee last week in its effort to show "Communist control" of Local 301. They told the committee off, and were included in Congressman Kersten's contempt threat.

George Judway, former Executive Board member in Buildings 18 and 40, now working in a paper mill and living in Crown Point, N. Y., said he would not "discuss political questions with anti-union people." He said that at GE he did "not ask anybody whether they were Republicans, Democrats, or Communists."

Badgered about his reading, Judway remarked:
"Some times I even read the Gazette, and it stinks."

'None of Your Business'

Gordon Belgrave, Bldg. 17, co-chairman of the Activities Committee, told Kersten:

"What I think is none of your business. The First Amendment protects freedom of thought. I don't have to tell anybody what I think, especially guys like you who are trying to bust our union."

Albert J. Lenta, Bldg. 53, once

a shop steward, told Kersten:
"My opinion is between me and God."

Lenta threw Kersten into confusion when he tried to explain to him that "if we make capitalist democracy work, we need have no fear of Communism."

Ellis on Stand

The last witness called was Rudolph Ellis, of Bldg. 46, who said he held no office of any kind in the union.

He declared:
"I'm proud of any political party I belong to, but will not before your committee answer any question that violates my constitutional rights. I have never denied my affiliation to my shopmates and friends, but as for you, it's none of your business."

He told Kersten that the people should know about the Communist party, and could find out about it by going to any party office and getting its program.

Ellis said he did not believe that any party had the right "to overthrow our democratic form of government by force and violence, or to abolish freedom of worship."

Blood Bank

UE Local 907 at Detroit, Mich., now has its own blood bank to take care of emergency needs of Vickers employees.

Atomic Ruling

(Continued from Page 1)
J. Fitzgerald declared in a letter last week to Lillenthal. He attacked the unfairness and high-handedness of the order.

CIO President Philip Murray also protested to Lillenthal about the Knolls II order. He urged reconsideration of the ruling and pointed out that the union had no chance to be heard on the matter.

Fitzgerald's letter to Lillenthal said:

"The union denounces the utterly false and groundless insinuations concerning the loyalty of this union and its members in connection with atomic energy plants. The twelve-year record of the UE officers and members in service to the welfare of our country and its working people repudiates these smears. Only a combination of cheap political maneuvering and outright government-company anti-union collaboration could produce such unjustified action as you have taken."

Murray's letter declared:
"The CIO cannot accept the principle that it is either within the power of the Commission or in the public interest for the Commission to deny unions bargaining rights on the basis of a unilateral determination by the Commission of the loyalty of union officers."

Be Sure to Register

If you aren't registered by 10 p.m. tomorrow you can't vote Nov. 2.

In cities and villages with over 5,000 population you can register today from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. You have to register personally in these places, including Schenectady, Scotia, Albany, Watervliet, Cohoes, Gloversville, Johnstown, Amsterdam, Oneonta, Rensselaer, Troy, Mechanicville and Saratoga Springs.

In towns and small villages registration is tomorrow from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Approve Deferring Craft Rate Fight

Building tradesmen, welders, and millmen met at the union hall last week and approved the recommendation of the Joint Craft Steering Committee, that the fight for correction of skilled craft wage rates be postponed to a later date when circumstances are more favorable. The recommendation had been approved previously by the toolmakers, tool room machine operators, and machinists.

How Community Chest Funds Will Be Spent

The goal of the annual Schenectady Community Chest drive, now in progress, is to raise \$394,146 which is to be spent as follows:

	Chest Grant
Association of Blind	\$ 2,400
Boy Scouts	27,900
Boy Scouts (repairs to home)	1,180
Carver Welfare League	3,500
Catholic Charities	21,667
City Mission	11,000
Children's Home	19,313
Day Nursery	3,400
Sunnyview Hospital	23,000
Ellis Hospital	20,000
Family Service Bureau	21,229
Girl Scouts	16,200
Ingersoll Home	18,169
Ingersoll Home (new roof)	1,946
Humane Society	9,050
Jewish Community Center	19,500
Old Ladies Home	18,750
Public Health Nurses	13,820
Salvation Army	11,868
Boys' Club	17,189
Scotta Relief Association	300
Travelers Aid	6,400
Y.M.C.A.	29,421
Y.M.C.A. (Mt. Pleasant)	5,042
Y.W.C.A.	24,584
Related Activities Council	13,405
Car depreciation fund	1,000
Chest administration	6,713
Campaign expenses	11,000
Depreciation on pledges, 4%	15,200
Total	\$394,146

The chest allotments supply about 13 per cent of the total budget of the 22 agencies covered. From other sources the agencies count on \$2,633,581.

Something Else Again

The General Electric Company has been refusing to comply with the seniority provisions of the UE contract in lay-offs of women. It wants all kinds of leeway in keeping women with short service records on their jobs, while laying-off women with longer service.

But in the case of an elderly woman recently laid-off from her job in Bldg. 40, management insists there's no work to be found for her, anywhere in the plant. The woman will be 60 Nov. 21 and will have to retire Dec. 1. She wanted to keep on earning up to the last possible day, as she is supporting her sick husband. The woman has about four years' service.

Strike Victory

UE has won a strike of over 10 weeks at the A. S. Campbell Company, East Boston, Mass. The strikers ratified a settlement Sept. 25 providing for increases of 10 to 16 cents an hour.

Union Members Jam Hartley Hearing



Oh, Mr. Boulware

GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware took time off recently from urging employees to eat beans in order to write a full-page advertisement, "What's Your Extra Pay?", for the Works News.

This advertisement, printed Sept. 10, says it's a mistake to think that your weekly pay is merely what you receive in your pay envelope, for you are really getting some "extras."

It lists the GE contributions toward unemployment insurance and Federal Old Age Benefits among these "extras" which GE pays "because GE feels these are the right things to do. Because GE wants to do them."

GE has to pay unemployment insurance and social security contributions because they are the law of the land, thanks to Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program. Like other great corporations, GE fought against these measures and has been trying to weaken them ever since. Last year GE successfully led the campaign in New York state to give huge rebates to big employers from the unemployment insurance fund through "merit rating." And GE is fighting the rating of pensioners to get unemployment insurance.

The Boulware "ad" also mentions six paid holidays and vacations up to three weeks. If GE thought these were "right things to do" the company took a queer way of showing it during contract negotiations with UE over a period of years. The union had to work pretty hard to get those contract clauses.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER



The pictures above were taken at the Hartley Committee hearing in the postoffice last week. The full Executive Board attended and many rank-and-file members.

Matles Praises Record Of Local 301 Witnesses

Members of Local 301 "gave a wonderful accounting of yourself" when the Hartley Committee invaded Schenectady, James Matles, national UE director of organization, declared at a meeting of the shop stewards Tuesday night in the union hall.

"You have rendered a great service to the union," he said. Matles pointed out that all the 301 members called to the witness stand "basically attacked the committee for attacking the union."

Through the Hartley Committee, the newspapers and other agencies, GE is making an all-out effort to

smash the union, Matles charged.

"It's easy to see why. From 1926 to 1936 there was no union in the electrical industry. Wages were increased only 5½ cents an hour during those 10 years. When UE was organized in 1936 the average wage in the industry was 67 cents. From 1936 on wages went up 79 cents an hour, to an average of \$1.46 in the industry."

Matles said he would always refuse to discuss his political or religious beliefs with an outfit like the Hartley Committee. On a number of occasions, he said, he and the other UE general officers have answered questions as to whether they were Communists and answered "in the negative."