By LEN DE CAUX

If you want to know what would happen to us if we had no unions to protect our rights and our conditions, just read what some of the "best minds" in the business world are saying and proposing.

"We must choose between guns and gadgets; between personal security or 'social' security," says Roger W. Babson, syndicated

He describes unemployment relief, farm aid and social security as the "gadgets" of which we must strip ourselves for the sake of defense; takes a crack at the eight-hour day; and criticizes the idea that we can keep our "superluxuries".

Superluxury to you may suggest yachts, sable coats, jewelry, palatial estates and the like. But not to Babson.

"By superluxuries," he explains, "I refer to hour and wage benefits, old-age pensions, farm bounties, indiscriminate relief and other sops and paps."

#### C. of C. Too

What Babson says publicly, many wealthy clubmen are saying privately. And organizations of big business like the Chamber of Commerce of the United States are actually coming to express the same ideas in more guarded terms in their official statements.

The Chamber calls for reduction of public expenditures for all purposes except defense; asks for a "modification of labor legisla tion"; and includes the following as one of its planks:

"No elements in our economic life should profiteer. This principle should apply to investor, manager, laborer and farmer."

#### Wage 'Profiteers'

If you find it hard to imagine laborers or farmers "profiteering" on their average family incomes of around \$1,000 a year—if you think the Chamber just threw in these two groups for good measure to show its impartiality-you are due for a surprise.

For you will find that the Chamber at the same time is quite violently opposed to excess profits taxation.

So it seems they don't want anything done about the investor who makes excess profits, but only about the worker or farmer who wants a little less poverty.

## Rolls-Royce 'Patriots'

Roll on in your Rolls-Royces, all you excess profiteers! Build new mansions, buy new yachts! Adorn yourselves with diamonds and other costly trinkets!

For Mr. Babson does not include such with his "gadgets" that interfere with defense.

And the Chamber of Commerce approves the taking of excess profits as something distinct from the "profiteering" of the laborer and the farmer.

# Superluxurious

But woe to you, you men and women of small income, who would "profiteer" at the expense of the Rolls-Roycers!

Shame on you, old man, for expecting the superluxury of the present \$20 a month pension in your declining years!

Go to, you dirt farmer, who would luxuriate on government farm bounties to keep the wolf from the door! As for you, you unemployed, who take the "sops and paps" of

relief or a WPA job, instead of quietly starving to death, don't you know such relief is a "gadget" to some? And you workers who still have jobs, don't you realize the

wage and hour benefits your unions have won, and even the weak limits on sweatshop exploitation in the wage-hour law are "superluxuries"?

All of these "gadgets" must go, according to Babson and his friends, to provide for guns. Labor laws must be modified, hours lengthened, wages cut; aged and unemployed must be left to starve; democratic liberties must be abolished; and the great American people must be driven hungry, enslaved, exploited, without hope of security or protection, to fight-for what?

# An Evil Dream

Such is the evil dream conjured up by imagining an America in which there are no unions to curb the lust of exploiters, and no progressive political organization of labor and farmers to make their right to vote effective.

As it is, this nightmare doesn't make sense.

Yet ideas like Babson's are a menace to any real national defense, if they are allowed to gain ground. For it takes a free people -not starving slaves-to protect a free country.

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# YOUR HALL

WHY NOT ARRANGE YOUR SECTION MEETING AT UNION THERE ARE MANY CONVENIENCES AC-COMMODATING ANY TYPE OF ENTERTAINMENT. THE USE AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

# **Munitions Makers** Strike for Suitable

the Reconstruction Finance quipment within five years instead of the usual 20 years. If the plane manufacturers delay

until Congress passes expected tax egislation, it was pointed out, the entire air corps expansion program will be held up for 60 days or longer. Although the war department has no power to force plane manufacturers to accept business, it was believed that refusal to begin work promptly would result in the demand for such

To counteract such a possibility representatives of plane manufac-turers have suggested that the companies receive a guarantee that price mined, thus assuring a full measure defense industries.

Already contracts for 4,000 planes are awaiting signature but the companies have refused to accept them until the proper assurances are made

allowed the companies for deprecia-It was believed that the five year amortization period and abolition of the eight percent profit limitation in favor of a new excess profits tax

concerning the amount that will be

tax, recently requested by the President, are taking shape solwly. Enactment is regarded as unlikely before

This is in sharp contrast to the speed with which Congress acted recently in passing the tax bill imposing additional excise taxes and low-

ering income tax exemptions. In the excess profits tax bill will be provisions repealing existing profit schedules will be subject to negotiation after all costs have been detering accounting practices for national

# ELECTRICAL QUETRICAL & RIVE

VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—Local 301—CIO



SCHENECTADY, N.Y. - NOVEMBER 12, 1940

Labor Fares Well In Election

# UNION REQUEST loc Per Hr. Increase Drive

third term President November 5 as virtually complete returns piled up here.

The President apparently collected votes in 38 states for an electoral college vote of 449 while the ex-utilities head, Wendell Willkie, got 82 electoral votes in ten states.

The President's popular majority on the basis of late returns was well over 4,000,00 as compared with a popular majority of almost 11,000,000 in 1936.

In Washington labor union ofgressional elections as well as presentation to the Company. the presidential election. It was apparent that the Democratic party retained control of the House and Senate.

In senatorial races, Sen. Robt. M. LaFollette, Prog., Wisconsin, sneaked through to victory over both Republican and Democratic opposition. LaFollette sponsored and headed the senate civil liberties committee which was invaluable to labor.

'Wisconsin residents were not so fortunate in the gubernatorial election. Gov. Julius Heil, Republican, was reelected by a narrow margin.

Utah, as was expected, replaced Tory Sen. Wm. King (D) with Liberal Rep. Abe Murdock (D). Murdock was one of labor's stalwarts on the special House committee investigating the labor board and act.

Rep. Mons C. Wallgren (D, Wash.) was successful in a race egainst former American Legion Commander Stephen Chadwick for the senatorial post left by Sen. Schwellenbach who became a federal judge. Wallgren is accounted a liberal.

In Montana, Sen. Burton K. Wheeler (D), head of the senate committee investigating railroad financing and an opponent of conscription, was reelected for a fourth term.

Indiana results showed that Sen. Sherman Minton (D), one of the closest followers of the New Deal in the Senate, had apparently lost to a Republican country editor, Raymond E.

The other senatorial race in which labor was especially interested was in Minnesota where Sen. Henrik Shipstead (R) was reelected. Shipstead recently Farmer-Labor party and was opposed by organized labor for re-Benson (F-L) ran against Ship-

In contests in the House, labor port union are just and should

place apparently taken by for- to bring about a settlement. mer Rep. Jerry O'Connell who had a 100 per cent labor record when in the House two

NEW YORK CITY, October 29, 1940—The GE Locals Conference Board presented a request for 10c an hour increase for hourly-rated emloyees of the General Electric Company at a meeting with the Company on Monday, October 28. addition, the local representatives requested the liberalization of certain provisions governing the status of employees who might be conscripted. These points were discussed for two days, on Sat-

urday and Sunday, by local delegates before

The Company is now considering the waiving of the 40 day re-employment clause in the conscription regulations providing that the employee can present satisfactory reasons, such as illness, for not applying for re-employment within the specified 40 days. In addition, the application of the entire vacation plan as agreed upon between the Company and the Union to those conscripted rather than confining such benefits to those drafted after June 1. Profit-sharing, methods of profit-sharing payments; a better pay allowance provision and handling cases that might come up under these provisions were also discussed. Within a short time, complete answers will be received from the Company on these

The 10c an hour request for a wage increase was discussed at some length both by Company and Union representatives. No conclusion was reached and it was agreed that another meeting between the Company and the Union would be held during the first week in December.

points and presented to the locals.

The delegates representing Schenectady were E. Wallingford, President; A. Chrestien, ex-Board Member, and L. Jandreau, Business Agent.

# Local Executive Board Recommends Support To Transport Workers

The local executive board recommends to the membership of Local 301 unqualified support in the struggle of the transport in a position to know a fair rate that the demands of the trans-

be met by the traction company. The transport workers union, In Montana, Rep. Thorkelson in postponing the strike for one (R), follower of the Silver Shirts week, did so at the request of

and similar organizations, was the mayor, in order to give every defeated in the primaries and his available means an opportunity The transport workers receive 60 cents per hour at present and

work 54 hours per week. They are asking for 75c per hour and

City Councilman Dunn, who is also a foreman in the G.E. and for a job, stated his views in the It is the opinion of the board local papers, pointing out that the union demands were reason-

> The railway company is using its financial position—being in receivership—as an excuse for not paying a decent wage. However the company has been able to support considerable overhead at real fat salaries for a period

The Capital District Council has voted full support to the transport workers.

Shop Committeemen's Conference Map Big Union Membership

The Shop Committeemen in Conference at Union Headquarters on Saturday, October 19th, adopted plans for a definite organizational drive.

In order to have a constant check-up on the progress of the drive, the following committees

1. That the Union Committeemen of each building or section compose the organizing commit-tee for a given building or section, and that this Committee may elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be responsible for the drive in his area, and make progress reports to the regular shop committeemen's meeting twice a month at

2. That a permanent organizing committee of ten be elected from among the section chairmen of the general organizing committee on a Plant basis, and that this committee meet on Monday evenings, previous to the Shop Committeemen's meetings, and generally supervise the ried on in the Plant. The Financial Secretary will furnish progress reports to the Committee. so that it can be constantly in touch with the situation. This Committee will make regular reports to the Shop Committeemen's meetings.

This Committee may call in any Shop Representative to their regular Monday meetings to discuss organization in the Committeemen's section. Further duties of the permanent organ-izing committee shall be outlined from time to time by the General Assembly. No present member of the Executive Board shall be a member of this Com-

The Executive Board will recommend the following committeemen to the membership to compose this permanent com-

> A. Peterson, Bldg. 66 Jos. C. Bank, Bldg. 16 Steve Miller, Bldg. 42 Sydney Webb, Bldg, 46 D. Fisher, Bldg. 23 Arthur Cotton, Bldg. 40 Joseph Corsetti, Bldg. 53 Fred Matern, Bldg. 60 Chas. Aussiker, Bldg. 95 A. C. Thwaits, Bldg. 101

OUR DRIVE SLOGAN

One Country—The United One Union — The U. E

Local 301. Every G. E. Employee a Union Man—for 10 cents an hour increase.

ORIGINAL TORN

## . ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS . . .

Published by: UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL 301 301 Liberty Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

EDITOR BOARD

William Turnbull Thomas Caulfield Benjamin Geersen Fred Schoelfler

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# EDITORIAL

# UNITY AND DEFENSE PROGRAM

Now that the Presidential Election is over, and the majority of the American voters have again chosen Franklyn D. Roosevelt for President of the United States, we can forget our differences and unite for a common cause. That cause is the preservation of the United States as the most democratic country, and today that means building a defense for our Country that will discourage anyone from attempting to invade our shores and change our American way of life.

It is true that much more progress can be made in this country along democratic lines, especially in putting more teeth in our labor laws, and make them applicable to the big industrialists as well as the wage earners.

Nevertheless, this country today is the best country in the world for the working people, and the American working people (of which the members of Local 301 are an integral part) are ready to defend it to the last ditch.

We were happy to read the statement of Earl O. Shreve, a vice-president of the G.E. Company, in the Union-Star of November 6th, pledging support of the members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association to the Roosevelt Administration's Defense Program. We are proud to be employees of the General Elec--tric-Company-whose-spokesman-takes-such-a-stand,-and-we-certainly shall do our part to make this defense program a greatsuccess. With the present labor relations between our Union and the Company, we know we can do an efficient job for the defense of our Country.

In the same issue of the Union-Star that featured the Shreve force. article, there was an editorial commenting on the Presidential election, the tone of which was contrary to the tempo set forth by Mr. Shreve, and was not conducive to the unity that is now needed for the proper defense of our country.

When the utmost unity is needed among the people, such éditorials are nothing short of treason, and an outrageous abuse of the freedom of the Press. Certainly it is not American sportsmanship.

Without a question of a doubt the majority of the American people have cast their vote for four more years of the New Deal and the furtherance of the Social Security measures that have been initiated by the New Deal administration.

Liberty is an empty bubble without the protection of collective bargaining, the protected right of the wage earners to belong to a Union of their own choosing.

to the present administration to strengthen the Wagner Labor Act, which allows us to collctively bargain through our Union for wages and working conditions. The members of Local 301 and the G.E. employees generally, know what this means and has meant to them. It has meant higher wages, better working conditions, and a happier life for themselves and their families.

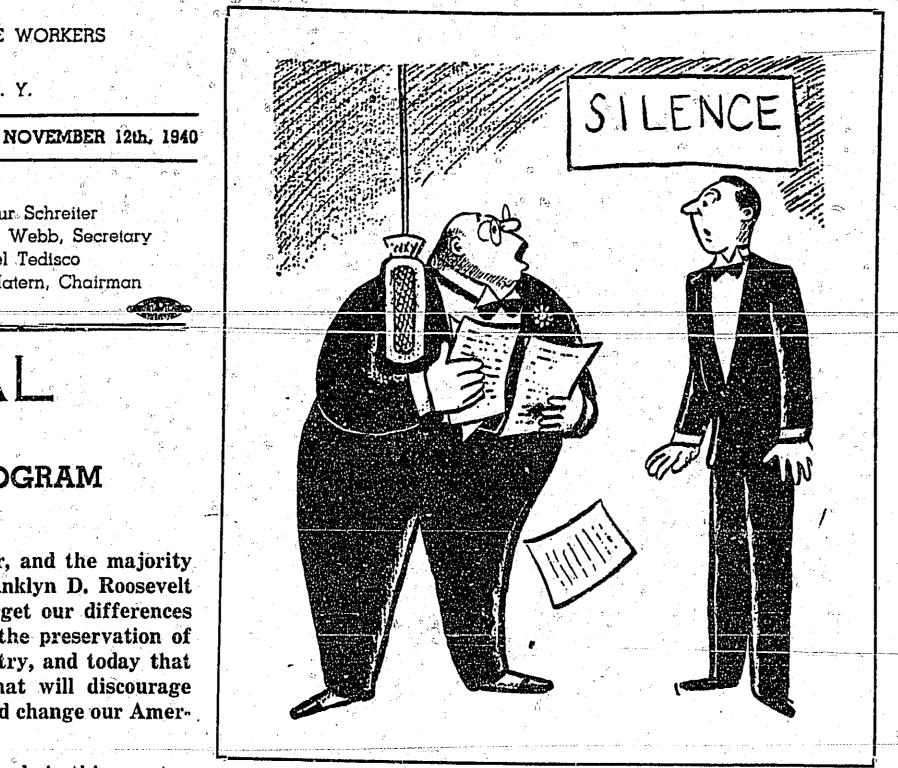
The vote of confidence was a vote for the protection and furtherance of the Wage and Hour Law, of the Social Security Law which has guaranteed old-age pensions to forty-two million American workers, and most of all a vote of confidence in the American way of life-equality before the law for the wage earner as well as big business.

Again we wish to reaffirm our faith in America and pledge 100 per cent cooperation to the Roosevelt Administration's defense program.

The creed of our Union . . . . "One Nation, the United States: One Union, U. E. Local No. 301.

#### THE UPPER CRUST

(FP Cartoon by Redfield)



Good Lord! I've lost my election promises.

# SECOND-HAND INFORMATION

There is still room for much education among our members along lines of Union loyalty and procedure.

One of the harmful practices among some of our members is to get their information of things that happen at our Union meetings second-hand and usually distorted, and carry this same misconstrued information all over the lot, causing much confusion and -disharmony-among-our-members.--

After a Union meeting, we usually get so-called complete reports of what happened at the meetings from members who never attend Union meetings. We hear of some Union members who forced things down the throats of the whole meeting. We hear of some Union members who were kept away from the meeting by

We hear that only members belonging to a particular political party-are-allowed-to-talk-at-the-meetings.

We hear of the thousands of dollars the Union is squandering. We hear of the small clique or gang that controls the Union

Members attending Union meetings know these things are not true, and know that they cannot happen under our present way of doing business.

Every good Union member owes it to himself and the Union to get first hand information by attending Union meetings, and if he believes these rumors he owes it to himself to attend the Union

meetings and register a protest against these practics. We should always bear in mind that every single Union mem-The vote of confidence is a mandate by the American People ber is a part of the Union, and anything said or done that injures the prestige of the Union or its leaders is only injuring every

> Injuring the prestige of the Union, injures our working conditions, injures our wage structure and injures the faith in our-

> Our Union is the only protection we have on our jobs, and anything harming the Union will harm this protection to you and your

> You owe it to yourself and the welfare of your family to do your utmost to maintain a strong and efficient Union on the job: and the best way to do this is never to repeat any rumor that will harm the Union, and further expose anyone that spreads these

Our first loyalty is to our Country that protects our right to belong to a Union of our own choosing, and our second loyalty is to our Union that protects our working conditions and the wages that make it possible to give our families a decent American Standard of Living.

#### Your Dollar By Consumers Union Coca-Cola

Each 12-ounce bottle of Pepsi-Cola contains 10 level teaspoonfuls of sugar, C.U. found in testing five leading cola drinks. The other brands contained about four-fifths as much. If you're reducing, remember the sugar

in Coca-Cola's smaller size (6 oz. blindfold taste tests on Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, Double Cola, Lime Cola and Royal Crown Cola. The only flavor which even half the staff members could consistently tell from other flavors was Pepsi-Cola's, and that was mainly because of the extra sweetness. Conclusion: If you must have colas, try the brands that give 12 ounces for 5c.

#### Grade Labeling

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announces an experiment of importance. It is now providing continuous inspection and grading of four canneries' 1940 pack of cherries, peaches, pears, corn and tomatoes. Goods thus inspected will be sold under the J.S. grade label - a shield-shaped insignia with the words: "U.S. Grade A" (or B or C). "These goods were packed under the constant inspection of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and this grade officially certified." This statement is not the same as the simple Grade A, B or C statement which now appears on some canned foods as the distributor's guarantee. The U.S. grade label is a government certificate of quality.

Whether the experiment continues depends on the public. Distribution will be on an experimental basis, through selected stores. If the buyers' response is good , the experiment may be extended to other plants next year, and may eventually result in the government service C.U. has been asking for since 1936grade labeling of almost all

canned goods.

Grade labeling provides two important benefits: If you want to pay the Grade A price, you get Grade A quality. If you prefer equally wholesome Grades B and C, you get them at lower prices.

## Furniture

Look before you leap into those August furniture sales, C.U. advises in the first of a series of articles on wood furniture in the August C.U. reports. It's possible to get your money's worth. It's also possible to squander money on furniture that will hold together only until start to use it. Usually the furniture advertised as a bargain special is actually the poorest value. Furniture that warps cracks or falls apart in a few months can't be a bargain. The shiny finishes that look so well in the shop window may not retain their gloss if they've been sprayed on unfilled wood.

## Furniture Workers

About 170,000 furniture workers are employed in the U.S. They receive 26 per cent of the or wages under 25c an hour. a relatively high ratio as combut pretty slim in terms of actuearnings. Average hourly wage is about 53c. Average weekly earnings - during employment—are around \$20. Summer and winter are slack sea-

The main unions in the industry are the United Brotherhood

#### Patternmakers Request the Old Craft Set-up

at the Schenectady Post Office, Thursday, October 24th, as a result of a petition made by the Pattern Makers which claimed they were denied the privilege of collective bargaining. The hearing revealed that the Patternmakers had benefited as much as any craft in the plant through This striking fact becomes the efforts of our union. The clearer as time marches on You they had received more in benefits in the past four years than they had for many years prior to 1937. However, they did attempt to establish some proof of bargaining for themselves that dated back to the early nineteen

The N.L.R.B. held a hearing

It was proved that crafts were adequately and successfully represented netting increases in wages. Copies of cases that were negotiated by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers were intro- title changed.

duced as exhibits for evidence. The membership of Local 301 has expressed themselves many times as to their feelings on the old craft setup in the plant. They will not go back to it. The moulders have taken a firm stand saying that they will consider the patternmakers unfair to organized labor in the Schenectady plant if they should establish precedent for craft unions to enter the plant.

Four years of successful collective bargaining with increases in pay, better conditions, and no cuts in pay, without one minute of lost time due to labor trouble. is something that the C.I.O. members in the Schenectady G. E. treasure closely and will not stand by and see taken away.

### Baltimore Newspaper Settles \$9,000 in Back Wages

BALTIMORE (FP) — The Afro-American, bi-weekly newspaper that welcomed the CIO with open arms until the American Newspaper Guild (CIO) started to organize its employes ias\_returned\_nearly\_\$9.000\_back pay due under the wage-hour law, a federal district court set-

Eleven employes have received about \$8,000 in straight back pay, including some overtime due. Virgil H. Williams Jr., who was listed as "apprentice reporter" but actually worked as pressman's helper and compositor for a year without pay, got \$431 due in straight pay. In a separate civil suit pressed Atty. Harry J. Dingle he won an additional \$300. Williams had been promised a job after his apprentice period but was fired instead. Dingle said.

of Carpenters & Joiners (AFL) United Furniture Workers (CIO) and Upholsterers Intl. Union (AFL). Workers in organized plants work shorter hours, earn more than in nonunion plants. Even before wage-hour legislation, the unions had helped to bar such abuses as 55-hour week

can be identified by union labels. Ask for the union label when you

YOUR DOLLAR is a regular monthly feature. The facts and opinions given are based on Consumers Union Reports, the monthly magazine of Consumers Union, 17 Union Sq. W., New York, N.Y., a non-profit organization whose main object is to safeguard buyers by testing and reporting on consumer goods. Note especially the information on labor conditions under which products are made.

## Reverse Play

Shipping has been badly hit by the war. One New York seaman says things are so bad the ships are following the scavengers.

They say Henry Ford is so Nazi-minded that when he's chilly, his goose pimples keep in

#### The Last Word

for 5c), C. U. concluded after testimony further showed that can't make democracy work unless the unemployed work.

> So many injuries resulted from the speedup in an automo-bile factory that some wag posted this sign near the company gates: Hospital Zone . . .

#### Still Alive

The cast of Paramount's new film, D.O.A. (police blotter term bers keeping their members up for 'dead on arrival'), wants the in their dues:

Whenever an actor tells a friend he's working in D.O.A., the friend congratulates him on landing a government job at

It seems the U.S. Army Recruiting Journal recently ran a yarn about the life of the typical rookie. While we didn't read it ourselves, a friend swears that the rookie in the story was called John Dope.

# Heard This One Lately?

A quiz program the other day stated that the phrase "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party" is a typewriter exercise only and has no historical origin. John R. Chaplin says he thought it was the adage that liberals forgot in times of stress.

They're saying of a certain Hollywood columnist: His father was a dirt farmer in Kansas, and the son is carrying on the family tradition in Hollywood.

Newest\_type\_of\_auto\_radio\_is controlled by a foot pedal. We'll soon hear this one in court: "I'm sorry, sir, but I stepped on the radio instead of the brake."

# Membership Cooperation and the Union Demand for 10c Hr.

Can we win our demand for a 10c an hour increase from the General Electric Company without the full support of all of our elected.

Definitely not! If you want from \$4.00 to \$5.00 a week more in your pay envelope, you must do your share.

Committeemen and Dues Collectors keep the members in your Section up in their dues? Is everyone in your section in

the Union? What are you doing to bring the non-union members into the

Do you cooperate and associwho definitely refuse to join our

Every eligible G.E. employee, not in the Union, is helping to keep us from getting the 10c an

Union is keeping your standard of living down! What are you going to

# Dues Collections and Initiations Hit New High in Local 301 for October

The financial secretary reportthat the October dues payments were the highest in the

history of Local 301.

The October dues show a 10 per cent increase over the month of September, and October initiations show a 40 ner cent increase over September. Our shop committeemen and dues collectors deserve much praise for this excellent work.

With the union drive opening up for general 10 cents an hour increase, we need the support of every G.E. employee and the suc-cess of our drive will depend on the amount of support our union

demand receives. Exceptionally good work was done by the following committeemen in rounding up new mem-

Charles White, Bldg. 10 James Kelly, Bldg 10 V. Urbano, Bldg. 9 L. Shannon, Bldg. 11 John Jarzebowski, Bldg. 16 Charles Wahl, Bldg. 16 David Belott, Bldg. 17 S. Schreiter, Bldg. 24 M. Simeon, Bldg. 28 John Hicke, Bldg. 37 Arthur Cotton, Bldg. 40 G. Straub, Bldg. 46 Philomena DeSiena, Bldg. 53 Joseph Corsetti, Bldg. 53 C. Herbeck, Bldg. 53 Leland Bellinger, Bldg. 49 A. Richelieu, Bldg. 60 B. B. Sackett, Bldg. 49 Frank Wahl, Bldg. 60 Wm. Muddle ,Bldg. 89 John Gage, Bldg. 105 John Polak, Bldg. 57 John King, Bldg. 95

# Labor Fares Well In Election

In California, Rep. Frank Havenner (D), accounted a labor friend, was defeated, as was former Rep. Byron Scott (D). Rep. Jerry Voorhis (D) was reelected. Rep. Lee Geyer (D) also came

In Illinois, Rep. Frank Fries (D), a member of the House labor committee and a labor friend was licked while in New Jersey Rep. Mary T. Norton (D), chairman of the House labor committee, was reelected. Rep. Caroline O'Day (D. N.Y.), labor friend,

was reelected. In Minnesota, congressional elections went badly for the once dominant Farmer-Labor party, Rep. Richard T. Buckler (F-L) being the only Farmer-Laborite

The South returned all of labor's enemies, including Reps. Howard Smith (D, Va.), Eugene Cox (D, Ga.), Martin Dies (D, Tex.) and Joseph Starnes (D, Ala.). Their return was assured following the Democratic pri-

In Ohio, Rep. Routzohn (R), a member of the Smith committee. was apparently defeated by labor votes but in Indiana Rep. Halleck (R), another member of the Smith committee, was re-

It was expected that labor's greatest gains would be shown in local and state elections. In Mich. igan, as an instance, the candi date endorsed by Labor's Non-Partisan League for governor, was elected while CIO candidates for city commissioner in Flint won six out of nine places on the commission. Two candidates of Henry Ford for Congress were

ORIGINAL TORN