

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 . . . U. E. R. & M. W. A.

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

MARCH 17, 1950

GE Refuses to Ask for Election by Apr. 1

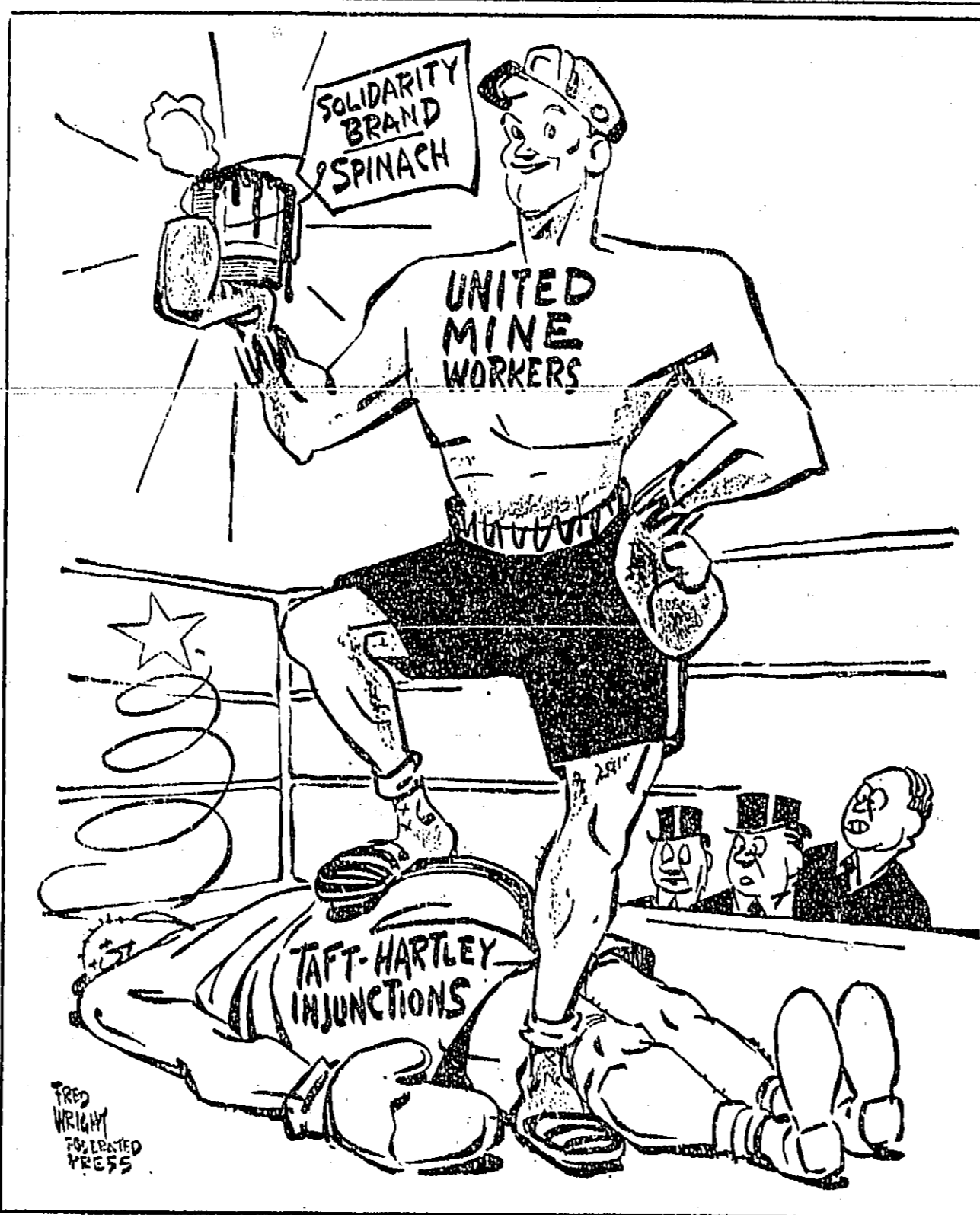
Collection of Dues For April Starts

Shop stewards have distributed UE-301 membership books to their groups. The books, in which dues stamps will be pasted, have been received with enthusiasm, stewards report. Anyone who hasn't been given his book yet should contact his steward at once.

Collection of April dues has already started in some parts of the plant. A big majority of the membership has pledged that it will pay during March and stewards are planning a concentrated collection the last week of the month. Dues are payable the first of each month but the union is asking advance payment to assure successful and efficient operation of the direct collection method.

The membership voted for direct collection after four months' check-off funds were handed over to Federal Court by teamwork of the General Electric Company and the "Imitation UE".

In receiving their membership books, many members told stewards they were glad 301 is handling its own dues money "so it can't be stolen from the union."



301 Members Urge Speed In T-H Vote

Large numbers of Schenectady GE workers this week backed up UE's drive for a National Labor Relations Board election before Apr. 1 by telegrams, letters, and postcards. They send the messages to Paul Herzog, NLRB chairman, at Washington.

In Induction Motors every group sent its own telegram, paid for by dimes given by the workers. In addition many of the workers in that division wrote their own postcards. Punch Press was also one of the first divisions to take action.

The UE-301 Executive Board was to send a committee Wednesday night (after this week's UE News went to press) to the City

The UE-301 membership has served notice on GE that all contract conditions must be observed after Apr. 1 and that the company must continue to recognize UE-301 shop stewards and officers and no one else. An Executive Board statement this week pointed out that pending an election UE-301 remains the only legal bargaining agency here.

The Board declared that GE's refusal to extend the contract as requested by UE means that the company wants a free hand to cut pay, to speed-up and downgrade, to violate seniority and wants to encourage its company union, the "Imitation UE."

Council caucus to ask that the city call on the Taft-Hartley Board for a speedy election.

The General Electric Company has refused the national UE request to sign a joint petition to the Taft-Hartley Board asking for an election before Apr. 1.

As its excuse for rejecting the request, GE said that the Labor Board needs time to study the
(Continued on page 2)

Lynn IUE Meeting A Colossal Flop

One of the biggest flops yet was the meeting which the "Imitation UE" group of the Lynn GE plant called for Monday night, with a featured out-of-town speaker. Newspaper stories helped ballyhoo the meeting in advance. IUE hired a hall which would seat 1,500 people. But by actual count only 63 people showed up.

Lynn is constantly referred to in newspapers as a Carey stronghold, because the former UE business agent, Fred Kelley, is on the IUE governing committee.

Meeting Mar. 28

Because of the series of section membership meetings last week and this week the Executive Board has postponed the monthly 301 membership meeting from next Tuesday to Tuesday, Mar. 28.

GE Profit Statement Reflects Speedup, Lay-offs

GE made its 1949 record profits on less sales and fewer workers. The company's financial statement last week included the usual meaningless talk by Charles E. Wilson about percentage of profits to sales dollars. But here are the important facts in Wilson's annual report:

Net profits after taxes for 1949, — \$125,639,000, almost \$2,000,000 above the previous all-time record for 1948.

Sales down 1.2 per cent. Average number of employees down 8.9 per cent from 1948.

This means that GE made more money on a smaller market, by laying off 17,000 workers and speeding up those not laid off.

This points up the key importance of the UE's contract proposal for a shorter work week with 40 hours' pay. That is the most effective answer to speed-up and lay-offs. GE can easily pay for that and all of UE's proposals.

The annual report also points up the reason for GE's speed-up and wage-cutting drive, its encourage-

ment of the company union IUE, and its announcement, also made last Friday that, it will not extend the contract after April 1 pending the Labor Board election, as proposed by UE.

GE management wants to keep up its extraordinary rate of profit, in order to keep up the price of GE stock on the stock market. With the people's purchasing power going down and orders dropping, the only way GE can keep up its earning rate is by a higher return per worker—by speed-up, rate-cutting, down grading and more lay-offs.

The "Imitation UE" is GE's answer to the growing signs of depression. It would make possible higher profits while more GE workers lose their jobs.

GE Refuses to Ask Election by Apr. 1

(Continued from page 1)

4000-page record of the hearings involving claims of 11 unions. GE also offered several other excuses for delays by the Labor Board.

"General Electric will not be party to any action which might create the false and unfair impression that the Board has been dilatory in these proceedings," G. H. Pfeif of GE wrote to Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE locals last Friday.

The "Imitation UE" signed the stipulation which UE sent it, agreeing to join in asking for the election before Apr. 1.

The Carey outfit can't afford to show that it is hopeful the election will be delayed. But it could sign the stipulation with complete safety knowing that GE would refuse.

This is another example of GE-UE team-work. Every time UE has suggested a move to speed the election, either GE says "Yes" and IUE says "No" or GE says "No" and IUE says "Yes."

There could still be tricks left in their bag to hold up the election at the Schenectady plant where they know IUE will be defeated. They might trump up phony unfair labor practice charges with the Taft-Hartley Labor Board, or a Congressional investigation, or interference by the Department of Justice.

The whole 301 Executive Board met Tuesday with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, and called on the Schenectady GE management to ask the Labor Board for an election by Apr. 1.

Stevens said he didn't see what good such action would do. Business Agent Leo Jandrea pointed out that GE was able to bring the Kersten committee here and to get the Atomic Energy Commission to give GE an order against recognition of UE. Therefore, he said, the company should easily be able to get a prompt election out of the Labor Board.

Stevens said he would take the matter up with Pfeif.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND
MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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How About Money IUE Flings Around?

Now that the "Imitation UE" is using a court order to poke around the UE 301 books which are open anyway to members at all times, how about an accounting of the IUE money being spilled around Schenectady?

What are the salaries being paid to R. J. Thomas, defeated Auto Worker president, and the rest of his CIO disorganizing crew from various points on the map? How much in expenses?

How much is being paid in salaries (and expenses) to Frank Fiorillo and miscellaneous ex-UE members for trying to destroy the union of their fellow-workers?

What about payments out of Fiorillo's "personal" account?

How much in bribes and "lost time" to buy a handful of shaky shop stewards?

How much in liquor and beer? Every cent of UE money is accounted for regularly to the membership, and not a cent spent by UE needs an apology. It is spent serving the members, handling grievances and legal claims, and protecting the contract.

But will the IUE offer to give Judge Alexander a detailed report of the money spent here?

GE workers have a right to know.

Strictly Phony

What imitation "pension plan" will the "Imitation UE" boys be peddling next?

The paper put out nationally by the IUE boasted Feb. 20 about the wonderful pension plan negotiated by the CIO Oil Workers with two Sinclair oil companies. But here's what the Oil Workers' own paper reveals:

The pension plan will exist only if Congress passes the pending bill to increase social security payment by not less than 70 percent.

And the plan, if it does go into effect at all, will start only July 1, 1950.

NICB Means NAM

Newspapers ran a story this week about the National Industrial Conference Board saying that IUE has more members than UE.

The National Industrial Conference Board is a research and propaganda outfit of the big employers. For all practical purposes it is a branch of the National Association of Manufacturers. Enough said!

Meet Your Union Leaders

The first organizing job done by James J. Matles, UE director of organization, was at the Nash factory branch, in New York City where he went to work as a machinist in 1932. It was during the depression when workers took wage cuts because there were long lines of jobless outside and no unions inside.

But when Nash ordered a 10 per cent wage cut, work stopped at Matles' shop. The 180 employees elected him to a committee to meet with the management. As a result of the negotiations the wage cut was restored.

"That was the shop from which we got the start for UE Local 475," Matles says. He still holds membership in 475.

There are still hundreds of machinists in that local who remember working with Matles to get little groups together at different shops. Much of their organizing had to be under-cover because workers would be fired if the boss found out.

These shops first organized the Metal Workers Industrial Union because the American Federation of Labor was refusing to organize the unorganized. In 1935 Matles worked with other independents throughout the country to set up the Federation of Metal and Allied Unions. The federation included Lynn Local 201 and Schenectady 301. Matles was elected secretary of the federation.

Later the machine and foundry locals of the federation voted to affiliate with the AFL Machinists Union, and Matles was appointed a grand lodge representative. The radio and electrical locals tried unsuccessfully to get an AFL charter. The old AFL leaders just didn't want to be bothered with them.

As CIO began developing inside



JAMES J. MATLES

the AFL, Matles urged the IAM to join the new movement for organizing the unorganized and for getting away from craft unionism. When IAM leaders turned thumb down on CIO, Matles led the way out of the machine locals which had joined IAM. They became part of the new UERMWA.

Matles was elected UE director of organization in 1937.

Born in Rumania, Matles served his machinist's apprenticeship there and came to the United States in 1929 at the age of 19. He is an American citizen, and served several years in the army during World War 2.

UE Wins Strike

UE has won the 17 week strike at the Gould Storage Battery Company at Trenton N. J. The settlement includes flat wage increases and other improvements totaling 10½ cents an hour.

19½ Cent Package

UE Local 475 has signed a contract with Johnson Machine Company, New York City, with 19½ cents more an hour for workers in pay raises, insurance and paid holidays.

Taking Oath as 301 Shop Stewards



Floyd Warner, 301 guide, at extreme left, administering the oath of office to shop stewards at the union hall; left to right, Ralph Lasher, and William Miller, both of Building 109; Robert E. Lot, Bldg. 227; Charles J. Chambers and Anthony Tama, both of Bldg. 109; Ben Rocher, Bldg. 85, and Fred Danberg, Bldg. 259.

Emspak Discusses Why Enemies Red-Bait UE

Opposition to big business policies which cause unemployment in this country and in Europe is the highest form of Americanism, Julius Emspak, general secretary-treasurer of UE, told the section membership meetings this week.

Emspak, a charter member of Local 301, said that the IUE and GE will try to make people believe that the issue in the present fight is "Communism," because that is the easiest cry with which to confuse and divide people.

"It is a manufactured issue," he declared.

Pointing out red-baiting has continued since the officers filed non-Communist affidavits under the Taft-Hartley law, Emspak said the members had found out that "yapping about our virtue" will not stop the red-baiting. As long as we insist on democratic trade unionism in the interest of the people, Emspak said, we shall be red-baited.

What Happened in 1919

After the 1919 strike at GE, which was defeated, some men were blacklisted and had to leave town to find jobs, Emspak said. At that time the cry against honest trade unionists was not "Communist," but "IWW" and "Socialist." The cry was used against leaders of the strike by employers and politicians, and by the national leaders of some of the very unions whose locals were on strike at GE.

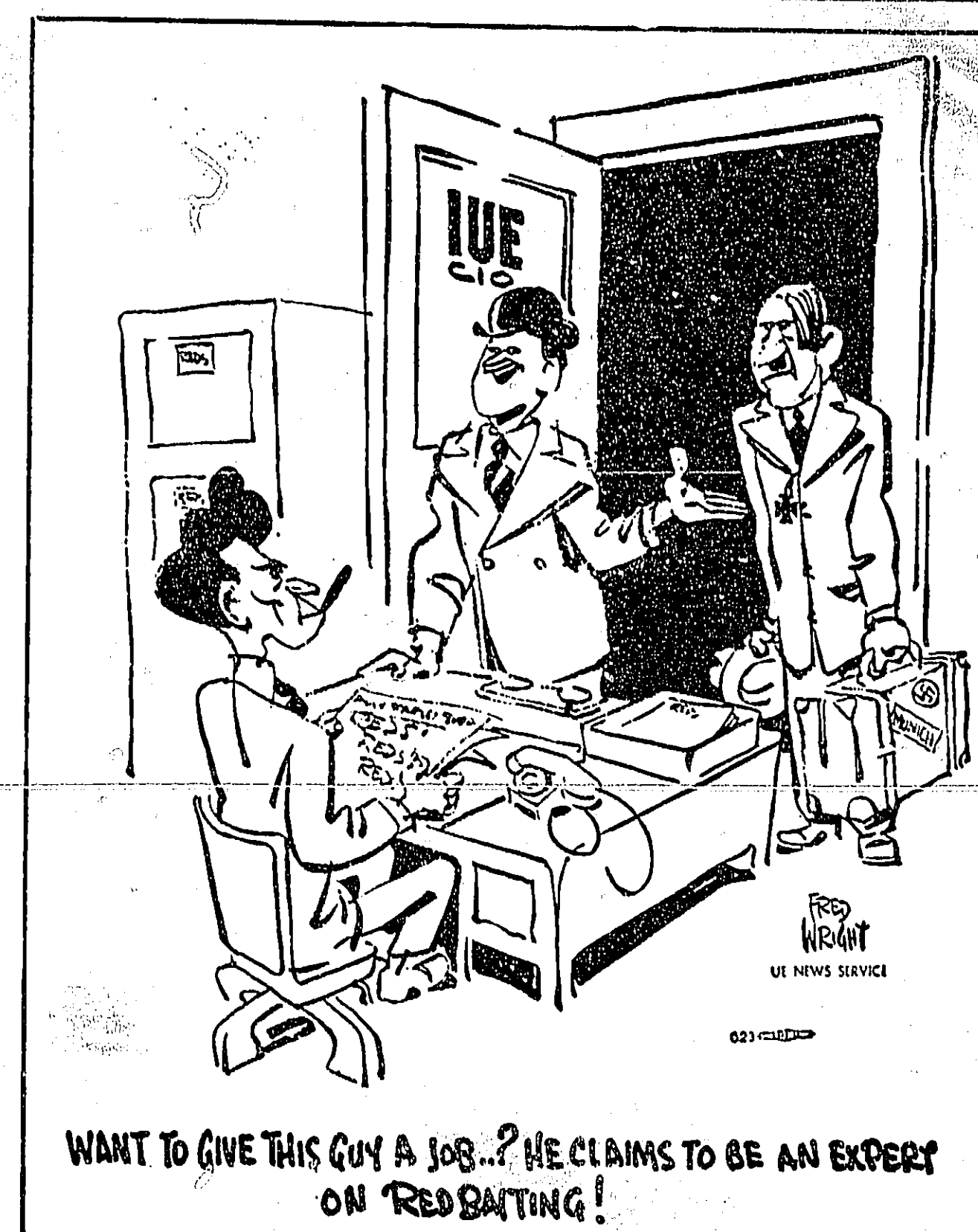
When people read red-baiting propaganda against the union in the newspapers, they should ask themselves, "Did the Gazette ever fight for higher wages or for legislation that helps the people?" Emspak continued.

Test UE's Record

He said the answer to those who call UE "Red" is to apply the simple test, "where did the union ever do anything contrary to the interests of the people?" By that test what UE has done is good for America, and for that very reason will be attacked by the politicians.

"Americanism is not the property of the Wilsons and Bouwmares, it's in the hearts and minds of the American people," the national officer declared.

He added that GE workers formed their union because of the bitter problems of the depression, and not in order to have Philip Murray order them to line up behind one political party or get out.



Attorney Levy Cites Untrue IUE Statements

Untrue statements in the Schenectady IUE paper of Mar. 6 about the inspection of Local 301 financial records were pointed out in a letter which Samuel Levy, Schenectady attorney, wrote this week to the national UE News. He is counsel for UE-301 in the court proceeding connected with the order the IUE obtained to inspect 301 books.

Levy points out that the IUE untruthfully said the court appointed auditors and that those auditors reported they discovered irregularities in the 301 books. The court appointed no auditors. The inspection of books, still going on, is being made by accountants retained by officers of the IUE and by UE.

The IUE article also said untruthfully that UE-301 "forgot" to pay some federal taxes.

However, government representatives have examined the books, Levy declared, "and found all taxes due are paid."

"I have been wondering if other articles in this IUE newspaper are as false as this one," the attorney commented.

Levy pointed out that he is not one of the regular staff of UE attorneys, but being an attorney who has practiced in Schenectady for 45 years, was retained as local counsel in the one proceeding.

"I am not in any way otherwise connected with any union," he wrote. "However, I believe if one union is trying to induce members of other unions to join up with their union, they should in so doing only use honest and truthful propaganda."

Overtime Pay Formula

When a worker works overtime on a shift other than his own, his overtime pay will be based on his own schedule of work. This application of the contract was worked out recently with the company by the UE-301 grievance committee with the approval of the union's Executive Board.

The question was involved in the case of a second shift worker who worked on third shift on a Sunday night. By local understanding, Sunday night work for the third shift is like Saturday night for other shifts and gets time-and-a-half pay. But for the other shifts Sunday work gets double-time pay. So under the contract application the second shift worker in the case gets double-time for the Sunday night third shift work.

National CIO Strike-Breaking in Fulton County

The national CIO is now engaged in active strikebreaking and scab-herding against the tannery strike in Gloversville and Johnstown.

Last Saturday's local daily, the "Leader-Republican," carried a three-column photograph of John J. Maurillo, CIO sub-regional director, presenting a charter for a new "Right-Wing CIO group," formed by scabs in the strike. The CIO is actively sponsoring the employers' back to work movement, in which tannery employers have the help of police and 250 "special deputy sheriffs."

In the newspaper picture with Maurillo, was one Peter Aversa, CIO field representative. This man was much in the newspaper headlines last October, when as head of Farm Equipment District 6 he announced he was leading the Farm Equipment workers in Auburn into the United Auto Workers. The Auburn workers today are solidly in UE, and Aversa has been expelled by his own local union.

The Gloversville strike is conducted by the Independent Leather Workers' Union, and is backed by the CIO International Fur and Leather Workers. This union has been under attack by the top CIO leadership, but is still part of CIO.

The Gloversville strikers defeated earlier strikebreaking raid by

What Teachers?

So the "Imitation UE" in Schenectady is going to run classes in processing grievances and in parliamentary law.

We suppose the class in grievances will be taught by Frank Fiorillo, who never handled a grievance case.

And Frank Kriss can give some pointers to the parliamentary law class. He has some Carey rules, including "Don't let anyone speak who doesn't agree with you" and "If a vote goes against you, declare the meeting is out of hand and adjourn it."

Election Victory

UE won a representation election at the Eagle Signal Corporation, at Moline, Ill., by a vote of 98 to 68 for IUE.

voting down both the CIO Textile Union and the AFL Glove Workers by an overwhelming vote in the Taft-Hartley election. Then the employers got the national CIO to organize the strikebreakers.

Here's the Record About Mary Kelly

An attack on UE-301 by Mary Kelly of Building 28 was featured with her picture, in the Schenectady IUE paper recently.

The "Imitation UE" paper said she served as a shop steward for a year and a half and that "you won't find any complaints about how she performed her duty to the workers in her section."

That's certainly interesting news to the girls in Building 28!

Mary Kelly was elected steward in December, 1948. Less than eight months later the girls in her group were so disgusted with her record in dealing with supervision that they filed a recall petition against her and she was replaced by another shop steward by an overwhelming vote.

The girls in Building 29, where she used to work before her transfer to 28, are indignant over her attack on UE in the IUE News. Twenty-eight of the 29 girls in her former group drew up and signed a statement condemning her for the attack and her ungratefulness to the union which did so much for her personally.

Mrs. Kelly obtained a change of job within the group through the efforts of Shop Steward Marky Brunetti. Later at her request he also got her a transfer out of the department. Her husband, Robert Kelly of Building 77, had seven years' service restored through Shop Steward Joseph Mangino, now 301 vice-president.

Unemployment Grows Worse

With growing unemployment, home relief cases in Schenectady County are increasing steadily, County Welfare Commissioner Leo H. Vosburg said recently. He predicted the county welfare rolls will reach a new post-war high unless people got jobs soon.

Vosburg said that lists of the unemployed in the county in January, 1950, contained 4,000 more names than a year ago January.

There were 3,396 jobless registered with the Schenectady unemployment insurance office as of Feb. 24. But there are in addition probably at least 2,000 people who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits for the current year. And others are exhausting their benefits every day. Hundreds more have never qualified for jobless pay.

Syracuse IUE Drops Phony Strike Threat

The IUE leadership at the Syracuse GE plant had to drop its phony strike threat last week when it became obvious that the workers wouldn't fall for their schemes.

For a long time the Carey group in Syracuse masqueraded as UE members to hold recognition under the contract. Finally they were so thoroughly exposed by UE that GE recently announced it wouldn't deal with them.

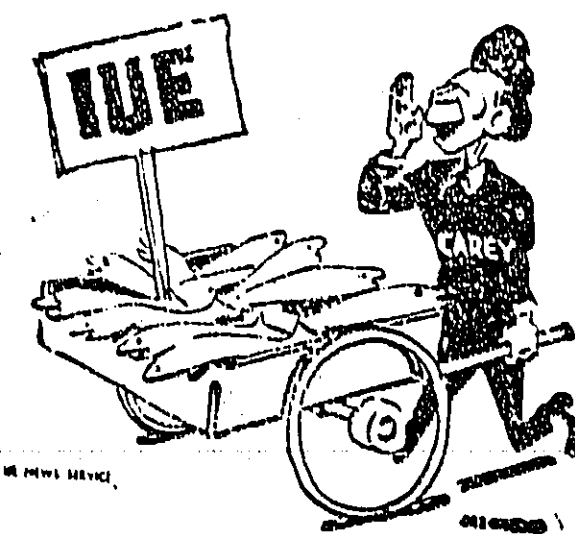
The IUE held a meeting Mar. 3 at which they brought in as speakers R. J. Thomas, defeated Auto Workers president who is heading the CIO disorganizing committee in Schenectady, and Frank Fiorillo. Less than 60 people turned up for the meeting. The group voted to call for a strike vote to be taken at a meeting Mar. 8, to protest GE's refusal to recognize the IUE leaders.

By Mar. 8 it became so apparent that the workers weren't going to fall for the strike idea that a few hours before the meeting it was postponed indefinitely "because of the weather." The company ruling still stands.

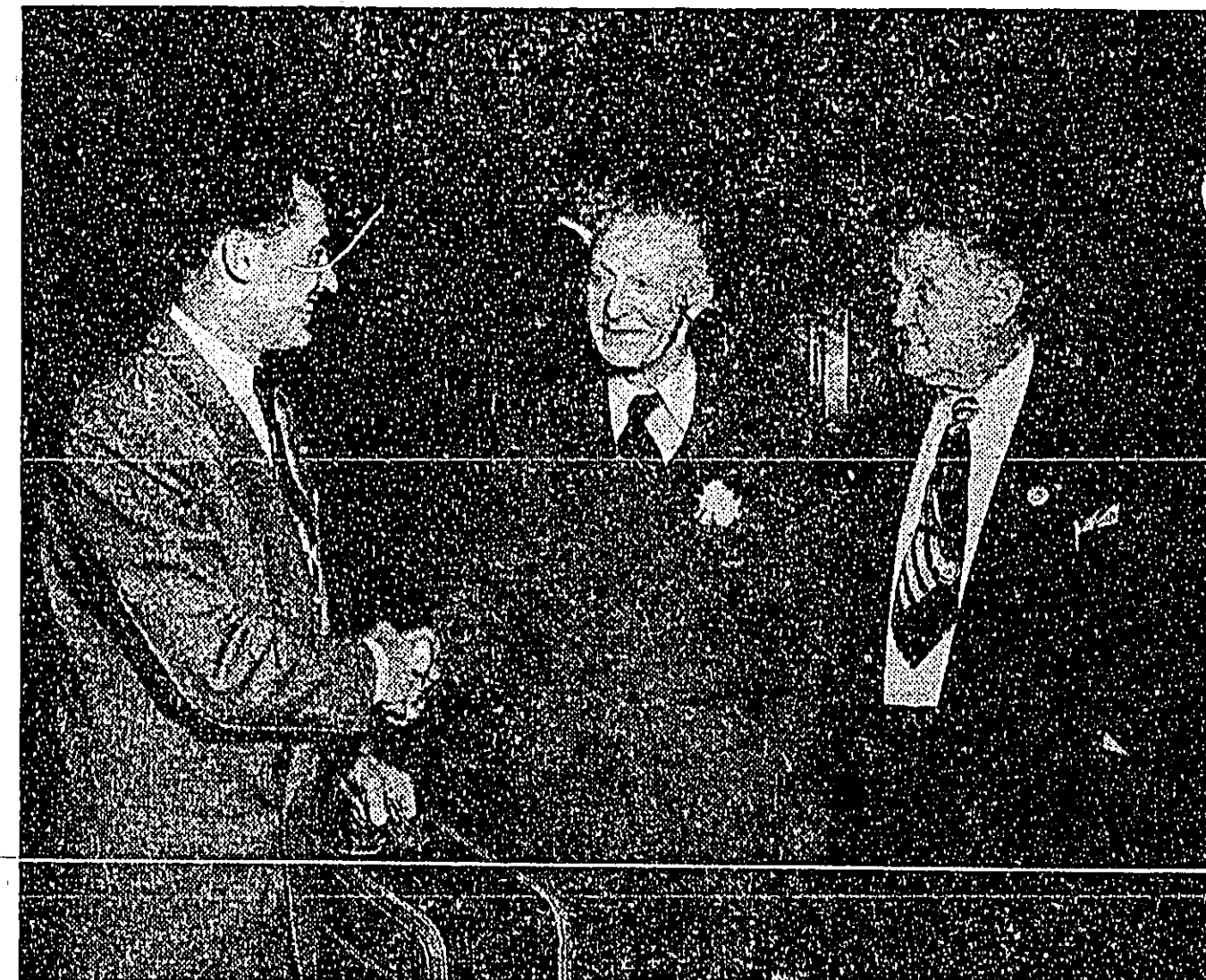
The IUE leaders were trying to take the workers out on strike to establish privileges and authority for the Carey agents. But they have refused to take any action to fight the scandalous speed-up and other bad working conditions they have allowed to develop.

Last Sunday Dewey Brashear, 301 Executive Board member, addressed a UE meeting at Syracuse and contrasted the working conditions in Schenectady with the decidedly bad Syracuse conditions.

Newspapers recently played up the fact that a court decision voided an injunction UE had obtained limiting the Syracuse IUE leaders' expenditures. UE didn't even oppose the motion to vacate this injunction. The IUE group had already spent the union's funds and the check-off money is tied up in court.



301 Pays Tribute to Hodges on Retirement



William Hodges, former UE-301 vice president, center, receiving a handshake and a gift suitcase from 301 Treasurer Henry Kaminski at a dinner at 301 hall last Saturday. 301 President William J. Kelly, right, presided. More than 125 union members attended the affair to honor Hodges, who has retired from the plant after 34 years' service. Hodges expressed regret at leaving in the midst of the fight to preserve the union and declared he would aid UE in every possible way.

Now Carey Admits Ford Pension Plan is Phony

Two weeks ago the "Imitation UE" told GE workers in a leaflet that the IUE really worked out a pension agreement with the Philco Corporation. But on March 9 an official news release was given the papers by Carey's IUE office. Here is a paragraph from the IUE statement:

"Carey pointed out that such a delay in working out the exact financial details of a complex pension program is the rule, not the exception. The CIO Auto Workers agreement with Ford was reached last September, he recalled, but details of that pension plan are still being formulated."

UE told its members a long time ago that Ford pension agreement was a phony and a sell-out, but we hardly expected Carey to admit it.

The Carey announcement said "final arrangements of details" were being worked out in the Philco pension plan. But when you read

further down you find that all they've been talking about is what kind of bonds the pension should be invested in.

The Westinghouse Airbrake pension and insurance plan negotiated by UE is the one important pension that has really been worked out in full and acted on by the membership. It is vastly better than the Steel, Ford and Philco plans can possibly be, if and when they are worked out. The UE membership at Westinghouse Airbrake rejected repeatedly attempts by the company to make them accept the Steel plan.

Elmira UE Stewards Ask GE Work Stoppage

The Stewards' Council of UE Local 310 at the Elmira GE plant voted last Friday to ask the GE Conference Board of UE locals to call a national work stoppage in the GE chain in protest against GE's refusal to extend the contract.

It accused GE of "openly inviting the IUE and every other element to help in its drive to bust down our contract conditions."

Did You Know?

According to U. S. government figures, only one out of 20 younger workers covered by pension plans can expect to work long enough for one employer to receive a pension.

10 Cent Increase

A wage increase of 10 cents an hour, plus health and life insurance paid by the company, has been won by UE at Newark Gear Inc., Newark, N.J.

UE SHOWS THE WAY ON PENSIONS AND INSURANCE!

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL 610

322 STATION STREET
WILMERTON, PENNSYLVANIA
BRANDYWINE 1-6614 VALLEY 4865

201 WAVERLY AVENUE
SWISSVALE, PENNSYLVANIA
BRANDYWINE 1-4494

February 16, 1950

Mr. Albert J. Fitzgerald,
General President, UE,
11 East 51 Street, New York City

Dear Fitz:-

It is with pleasure that I wish to advise you that UE Local 610 has just signed a pension and health and welfare agreement with the Westinghouse Airbrake and Union Switch & Signal companies covering 7,500 of our people. The settlement provides for:-

- ★ Minimum \$125 a month pensions going as high as \$200 a month ... if a member is laid off or quits he is still entitled to his pension.
- ★ Complete hospitalization and surgical benefits for our members and their families paid for in full by the company.
- ★ Life insurance of \$3,000 to \$5,000 and a \$1,000 paid-up insurance policy, all paid for in full by the company ...

Enclosed are further details of the agreement.

Fraternally,

Harold K. Briney
Harold K. Briney, president

DEMAND NLRB ELECTION AT GE BEFORE APRIL 1