

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 21, 1949

STOOGES WILL NOT STOP UE 301

STATEMENT BY LOCAL 301 EXECUTIVE BOARD, ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY
November 18, 1949

Organized hooliganism by the Carey forces, directed and organized by Frank Kriss through his complete disregard of the membership, prevented the membership from holding its meeting Thursday night at the Armory, attended by 4,000 members from the first and third shifts.

The second shift meeting also was broken up by Kriss by completely ignoring the members at the meeting.

Therefore, the Executive Board finds that no membership meeting was held under the constitutional requirements in November. Frank Kriss and Frank Fiorillo have left the union, by their public action in accepting a charter from a dual paper union.

The Executive Board names Vice-president William Hodges to carry out the duties of President, and Assistant Recording Secretary John P. Green to carry out the duties of recording secretary, pending the annual election of officers in accordance with the constitution.

In view of repeated experiences showing that in the Armory a meeting can be disrupted by a small minority, making an orderly meeting there impossible, the Executive Board is proceeding to call the adjourned November meeting at the hall in sections, so that the union can nominate officers, set up the election machinery, and conduct other pending union business in accordance with the 301 constitution.

The illegal actions of a handful of traitors to their oath of office will not keep this union from its normal operations and handling of members' problems under the contract. The union here is UE Local 301 supported by the vast majority of the workers in the Schenectady plant of the General Electric Company.

NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING ALL SECTIONS AT THE UNION HALL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7:30 P.M. - 1st and 3rd shift members in
Buildings: 15, 17, 57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C, D, 99 A, B, 19,
101, 105, 285, old part of 273, 59, 269

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:30 P.M. - 1st and 3rd shift members in
Buildings: 53, 68, 72, 76, 80, 84, 205, 227, 238, 241, 12, 14, 16

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 7:30 P.M. - 1st and 3rd shift members in
Buildings: 18, 18A, 40 40B, 41, 42, 46, 48, 50, 1, 2
6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 7:30 P.M. 1st and 3rd shift members in
Buildings: 85, 93, 97, 109, 29, 64 71, 75, 77, 79, 234, 73, 73A, 67
65, 69, 81, 89, 52, 64, 66, 49 Annex

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 7:30 P.M. - 1st and 3rd shift members in
Buildings: 107, 5, 37, CAP, Peek Street, Knolls, 13, 13F
265, 61, 63, 259, 49 Patrol 11 Test 49 60 new 273

SECOND SHIFT MEMBERS WILL MEET IN TWO GROUPS NOVEMBER 29
and 30, ARRANGEMENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

LEO JANDREAU WILL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

ON
STATION W P T R (1540 on dial)

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 23

6:30 - 7:15

uopwa - 70

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 7—No. 46

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 25, 1949

UE-301 Doing the Job for GE Workers

Board Schedules 301 Meetings Have New Duties

First and third shift members in Buildings 53, 68, 72, 76, 80, 84, 205, 227, 238, 241, 12, 14 and 16 will meet at 7:30 p. m. tonight (Friday) at the union hall as a section of the adjourned 301 membership meeting of Nov. 17.

The Executive Board at a meeting Nov. 18 unanimously voted to arrange for a membership meeting in sections through which the membership is to do the union business which the Carey disrupters prevented being carried out last week. The meeting is to be at the union hall because experience has shown an armory meeting can be disrupted by a small minority.

The business includes nomination of officers for 1950, the election of an elections committee and the election of an auditing committee.

Schedule of Meetings

The first meeting took place Monday night. Other meetings scheduled by sections are:

Monday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p. m., First and third shift members in Buildings 18, 18A, 40, 40B, 41, 42, 46, 48, 50, 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 28.

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p. m. First and third shift members in buildings 85, 93, 97, 109, 29, 64, 67, 71, 75, 77, 79, 234, 73, 73A, 65, 69, 81, 89, 52, 64, 66, and 49 Annex.

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p. m. First and third shift members in Buildings 107, 5, 37, CAP, Peek St., Knolls, 13, 13F, 265, 61, 63, 259, 49 Patrol, 11 test, 49, 60, new 273.

Second shift members will meet in two groups Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 29 and 30. Arrangements will be announced in special extras of the UE News. A meeting will also be arranged for unemployed members.

Executive Board Actions

The Executive Board unanimously voted that because of the disruption and the illegal actions of Frank Kriss at the membership meeting last week, no membership meeting was held under the constitutional requirements in November. The Board stated that Kriss and

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William Hodges, left, named by the Executive Board to act as 301 president, and John Green, right, named by the Board to act as recording secretary.

Meetings With Male

A large committee of Turbine Division shop stewards met with Works Manager Lewis J. Male last Friday on accumulated grievances and will meet again with him next Wednesday.

Talking Turkey

Thanks to the UE contract, GE workers had a paid holiday yesterday, Thanksgiving Day. Steelworkers employed at the main steel plants, U. S. Steel, Bethlehem and Republic, spent Thanksgiving at home too, but without any pay.

Carey Agents Earning Their 30 Pieces of Silver

Some members have asked the union office what attitude they should take toward the people who are signing and circulating application cards for the Carey stooge outfit which uses the name IUE-CIO.

It is necessary to make a clear distinction between misled rank-and-filers on the one hand and eager union-busters on the other.

We must recognize that many members have been honestly confused by the endless campaign by the newspapers, radio and other outside forces. To these members we can only point out that they are being tricked to sign away their gains, the vacations, holidays, seniority, piece work guarantees, job security, and the many other benefits of the GE workers under the UE contract.

They must be told that they have given up any right to expect that their shop problems and grievances will be solved. We must tell them the facts behind the company union smokescreen.

But there can be no patience nor leniency towards the small group of former officers, board members, shop stewards and members who are active in soliciting cards for the Carey outfit. They are the Judases who are selling out their fellow man for thirty pieces of silver. They deserve nothing but contempt from their fellow workers.

Matarazzo Repudiates Place on Carey Board

Here is a good example of how the Carey stooges operate. Last Friday they gave out an announcement of a handpicked list of supposed temporary members of the Executive Board of their stooge outfit. The list included the name of Stephen Matarazzo.

Brother Matarazzo, an ironworkers' shop steward in Building 107, came to the union office Monday and signed the following statement:

"My name was used by the Kriss-Fiorillo group as a temporary executive board member of the IUE-CIO entirely without my authorization. In fact I was not even approached by anyone in the group before they published my name in the Union-Star. I am a shop steward of UE Local 301 and intend to remain one as long as I am picked by the men I represent. I intend to continue to fight to preserve the UE in this plant."

Contract Negotiations

Negotiating committees of GE and UE will continue the contract discussions Tuesday, Nov. 29 in New York City, after Thanksgiving week recess.

At the negotiating session Thursday of last week the right of laid-off workers to collect money they have paid into the pension system was discussed.

Carey Group In Company Union Role

UE Local 301 is going about its business of handling grievances, fighting for members' rights under the contract, and practicing real union democracy, while at the same time fending off the union-busting activities of James B. Carey's stooge "IUE-CIO."

This company union has shown its colors as the "Imitation UE" by setting up a hand-picked "Executive Board" and "stewards" and "grievance committee." True to their character, these phony "officials" can't represent workers

UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald on Monday suggested that a labor board election be held March 15 to settle the question of union representation in GE and Westinghouse plants, so that the contract benefits of workers may be protected.

He made the suggestion at a joint meeting of GE and Westinghouse conference boards of UE in New York.

Fitzgerald suggested the March 15 date because UE has binding contracts with the two companies expiring April 1, 1950. He said:

"The procedure we suggest would prevent reckless flouting of established collective bargaining procedures. Any action on the part of the Taft-Hartley Board to break existing contracts would lead to chaos in collective bargaining relations not only in our industry but throughout the entire nation."

and can not handle grievances. Only UE stewards and committees have any standing under the contract. But the Carey stooges fool some of the members with the help of continuing newspaper

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301 Doing It's Job For Workers at GE

(Continued from Page 1)

ballyhoo and lying leaflets. GE's L. R. Boulware continues to say loudly that GE is "neutral," but the company showed its colors in two very specific ways here. In direct violation of the contract and the rights of individual workers, the check for members' dues checked-off early in November is still being withheld. On Tuesday the company allowed the Carey-Kriss-Fiorillo stooges to hand out leaflets on company property, in a direct attack on UE 301, the only organization recognized as the representative of the workers here.

Tougher on Grievances
Of course the company has toughened up considerably on grievances, even by comparison with its tough attitude of the past two years. But where the membership is united, grievances are being won.

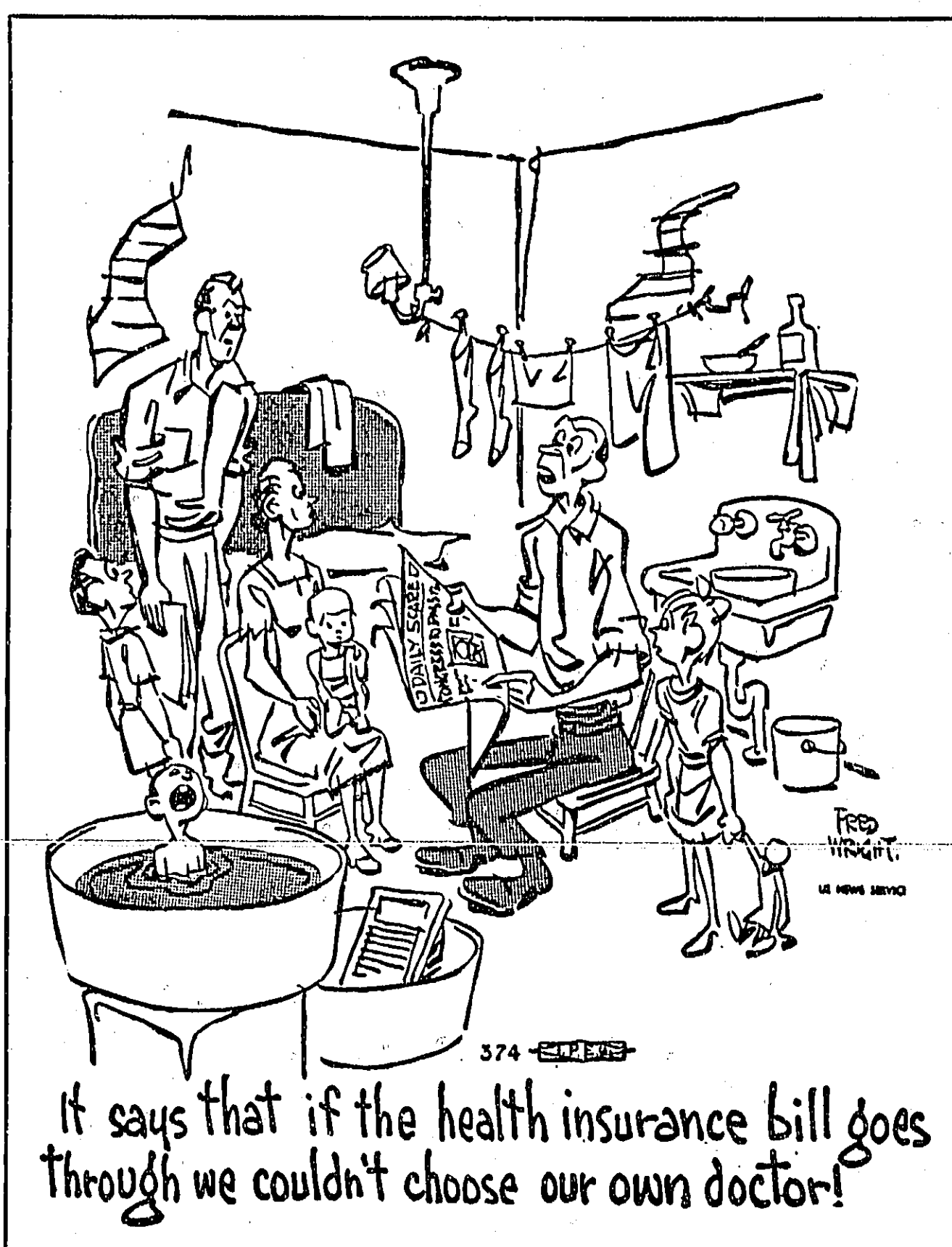
After their wild boasting, the Carey group showed how little support they had when they called an "organizing meeting" at the Steelworkers' hall Monday night. There were 47 present.

Local 301 is going about its business of making arrangements for the coming election of officers, shop stewards and executive board members under the constitution. The handful of stewards who have gone over to the Carey outfit are being replaced by election of UE members loyal to their trust. Vice-President William G. Hodges now fills in the duty of president, and John P. Green the duties of recording secretary. Even though the stooge outfit will probably get only a small number of genuine applications, it is probable that the anti-labor Taft-Hartley board will give them an election. The GE workers' ballots will settle the hash of those who would sell them out.

UE Paved Way

It was UE which made the first break in industry's resistance to employer-paid welfare plans in its victory in October at RCA.

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It says that if the health insurance bill goes through we couldn't choose our own doctor!

Support Voted For UE Policies

By a vote of 122 to 0, the members at the first of the meetings by sections, held Monday night at the union hall, voted to support and fight for the policies of UE.

The attendance at the meeting was good in view of the fact that notice of the meeting was only given that morning.

Nominations for officers were made and the members voted on an election committee and an auditing committee. When all the meetings finish EU News will report all nominations and the vote on committees.

Present Monday night were first and third shift workers from Buildings 15, 17, 19, 57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C, D, 99A, B, 101, 105, 285, old part of 273, 59 and 269.

301 Meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

Frank Fiorillo have left the union, by their public action in accepting a charter from a dual paper union.

Vice-President William Hodges was named by the Board to carry out the duties of President and Assistant Recording Secretary John Green was named to carry out the duties of recording secretary for the uncompleted terms.

Kriss and Pals Face Libel Suit

A summons in a libel action has been served on Frank Kriss, Frank Fiorillo and Ralph Mirando by Local 301 for a slanderous statement made about 301 officers in connection with union funds.

The Schenectady Gazette, which printed the statement Nov. 4, printed an apology after receiving a letter from the Executive Board that a libel action would be started unless there was a retraction of the statement. Kriss, Fiorillo and Mirando were also sent letters demanding a retraction.

301 Gets a Smell Of Carey 'Democracy'

Frank Kriss has given GE workers a foretaste of the kind of CIO "democracy" they would find in Carey's outfit by the way he conducted recent 301 membership meetings.

He refused to let members speak, prevented any discussion of issues, rushed through important votes without telling people what was being voted on, and announced the result of one vote after another contrary to what the vote really was. Then he ran out.

Gazette Is Trying New Way of Lying

The Gazette tried a new trick in lying about 301 during the past week. This time it tried to make its stories appear reasonable and honest, but the lies were there just the same. And it called itself "neutral."

Thus when the Carey stooges claimed that the Armory meeting voted "overwhelmingly" to leave UE, the Gazette said they had "a slight edge." The vote against the motion, even with all the confusion, was at least 2 to 1, probably much higher, as shown in the photograph on page 4.

With some more phony "impartiality," the Gazette pretended that UE supporters as well as Carey followers were disrupting the Armory meeting. The truth is that the shouting by UE supporters was simply the effort of large numbers to get the floor on a proper point of order to protest Kriss' violation of democratic procedure and abuse of his office. The small minority of Carey supporters were organized in selected spots in the hall to break up the meeting.

Other newspaper stories on the past week's events ranged from just sloppy reporting to outright lying. Typical examples:

The Union-Star reported that "right-wingers predominated at the second-shift meeting." The fact is that when Kriss declared the meeting adjourned, the meeting stayed in session to hear Leo Jandreau, and only about one-third walked out, leaving every seat taken and some members standing.

The Union-Star said a "Daily Worker" photographer was admitted to the Armory meeting. This was a barefaced red-baiting lie. The only photographers admitted were those hired by the union to make a record of the activities.

The Gazette described the 301 Executive Board as "all-powerful." The Gazette knows that the 301 Executive Board is limited to making recommendations to the membership, and has less power than executive boards in the great majority of unions.

The Union-Star had James Matles at the Armory meeting. He was not even in Schenectady.

And the Gazette tried to help out the Carey union-busters by crediting their pitiful Monday night meeting with 60 present instead of the 47 who were there. But that's just chicken feed alongside the over-all campaign job the papers have been doing for the company unionists. It would take many columns to point out all the distortions of fact.

301 Presses Fight Against Downgrading

Local 301 has sent to the New York level three grievances involving what the union believes is a determined move to downgrade jobs. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, of course denied there was any such idea.

Two of the cases involve assembly jobs in Building 46. Although the jobs are included in the company's job descriptions for A, the company now classifies both jobs as B. The excuse is that the way the assembly work is now being done makes the jobs B work.

Management claims it is not bound by its own job descriptions. The union says that by ignoring the descriptions GE can tear down the wage structure. Shop Stewards William Germain and Robert Lee and Executive Board Member Willard Kuschel took part in a shop investigation concerning these cases.

The third case is that of a toolmaker in Building 17. GE admits he is doing A work but insists on keeping his classification B on the grounds that he is doing only the lesser A work. Formerly there were three Class A men in the group. Now there are none.

Shop Steward Edward J. Messitt and Executive Board Member Sidney Friedlander pressed the grievance.

There's More To Hear About Pittsfield UE

Despite the usual newspaper ballyhoo, the Pittsfield, Mass., plant of GE is far from being sewed up for the Carey stooge outfit. Here are facts about Sunday's meeting:

With a big build-up around Carey's appearance and the help of a city-wide campaign by outside forces, only 1,000 people attended, and this included wives and friends of members, as well as delegations from the CIO Textile union. There are 7,500 in the bargaining unit. The UE forces sent only a small group of observers. Under intense outside pressure, as reported even in the news dispatches, the meeting voted against UE by standing vote. The vote in a secret ballot NLRB election will be another story.

The business agent of the local is John Callahan, who appeared at the CIO Convention as a delegate from the United Cemetery Workers. He has been burying the grievances of Pittsfield GE workers for months. Now he is trying to dig the grave of the contract.

Union Fights Lay-Offs In Move to Morrison

Local 301 last week protested against the General Electric's plans for moving work from refrigerator controls to Morrison, Ill., and for laying off 200 employees, mostly women, between now and March as a result of the move.

After being informed by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, that the company is now proceeding with the transfer of some of the work now being done in Building 53 to the new plant at Morrison, the union office wrote Stevens last Friday.

The letter called the move "an arbitrary one" that is "intended to reduce labor costs at the expense of the employees here." The move is uncalled for, especially at a time like the present, the union declared.

Local 301 asked to be furnished immediately with necessary information about service records so that seniority rights of workers affected by the change can be protected.

Thomas Stanton Under Arrest

Thomas Stanton, 866 Emmett St., reported in the Gazette as "a right winger," was arrested by police at the Armory meeting Thursday night, Nov. 17, on a charge of disturbing the peace. He is not a member of the union, but is reported to be a brother of Martin Stanton, one of the leaders in the Carey outfit.

A 301 sergeant-at-arms, who discovered that Thomas Stanton was carrying a piece of brass four or five inches long and an inch wide, turned him over to police. He pleaded innocent in Police Court last Friday and the case was put over until today by Justice Charles G. Fryer.

301 Files Appeal From Judge Alexander

Local 301 has appealed to the Appellate Division from the injunction obtained by Carey followers from Supreme Court Justice John Alexander interfering with the right of the 301 membership to handle their own funds. The injunction limited the union's expenditures to \$3,500 a week.

The union has obtained from Appellate Justice Francis Bergan an order for Frank Kriss, Frank Fiorillo and Ralph Mirando to show cause Monday at 10 a. m. in Albany why the injunction against 301 should not be suspended pending the appeal.

Labor History Repeats Itself

There's an interesting parallel between the refusal of UE to submit to the dictatorship of national CIO leaders and the fight between the original 10 AFL unions who formed the CIO and the AFL Executive Council.

In 1935, 10 unions of the AFL, including the Mine Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, demanded that the AFL start organizing the unorganized in the mass production industries on an industrial basis. The AFL Executive Council not only refused to do this, but threatened to suspend these unions from the AFL unless they dropped this plan.

The 10 unions continued the drive as the Committee of Industrial Organizations and they were expelled by the AFL on the issue.

Phillip Murray, one of the leaders in founding the CIO, took exactly the same stand against UE, at the CIO convention at Cleveland in October, as the AFL Executive Council took 14 years ago against the AFL unions demanding that the unorganized be organized on an industrial basis.

UE was expelled for insisting that CIO should organize the unorganized instead of disorganizing the organized.

Awards for Injuries

Workmen's compensation awards obtained recently through cases handled by the union office included an award of \$275 for John Jablonski, punch press operator in Bldg. 11, for a lip scar incurred 12 years ago. No claim had been filed until the union took up the case recently.

As a result of illness caused by dust conditions in Bldg. 68, Antonia Prevratil was awarded \$28 a week for lost time from June 7 to June 24.

Slightly Premature

National CIO leaders were so determined to expel UE and give Jim Carey a rump "union" all his own that three weeks before the Cleveland convention they rented space for the "union" which was not yet created. They hired office space in a building at Washington, D. C. for \$10,000 a year for Carey's paper outfit.

Gaeth Broadcast

Tune in on the Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, at 10 p.m. every Monday on WXXW.

What To Expect From Carey Boys

Here's the kind of "victory" which Carey's boys win for UE members whom they can shove into the Imitation UE. The officers of UE Local 213 in Springfield, Mass., took a phony vote on leaving UE.

The next part of the story comes from the Boston Globe of Nov. 12. It reports that Local 213 was the "first Bay State local to break away" from UE and that it had accepted a "new agreement without a pay raise" for 1950. Furthermore, the Globe reported that the officials of the local "accepted a report by an outside agency that greater efficiency among workers is needed."

The "outside agency" was paid for by the company.

UE fights the speed-up, to the best of its ability. But Carey's boys agree to a speed-up in a contract.

Can't They Think Of Something New

Once again the House Un-American Activities Committee is trying to do a job on UE. It has subpoenaed Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak and Director of Organization James Matles to appear in Washington Nov. 29.

The committee is undoubtedly attempting a smear campaign to help James B. Carey, who cooperated so willingly last year with another Congressional committee investigating UE—the Taft-Hartley Labor Committee.

Meanwhile it is interesting to read that Representative J. Parnell Thomas, former chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee, has obtained another delay in his federal court fraud trial. He has been accused of defrauding the government by receiving "kickbacks" from congressional employees.

Magician to Appear At Christmas Party

Harold Vine, Albany magician, will appear again this year at the Local 301 Christmas party for children of union members. The program also will include movies and distribution of gift bags by Santa Claus. Tickets are free. The expenses of the party will be financed by the sale of donation books in the shops.

The party will be run in four sections, all at Mont Pleasant High School. They will start at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Saturday, Dec. 10, and 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Sunday, Dec. 11.