

IUE Tries to Stall UE-GE Negotiations

Continuing its company union role of inventing excuses for GE to stall negotiations, the IUE-CIO has filed protests against UE's election victories in Schenectady and Erie, the No. 1 and No. 2 plants of the GE chain.

The protests are obviously unfounded, but could give the anti-labor Taft-Hartley NLRB an excuse for delaying certification of UE for weeks.

As to Schenectady, the IUE-CIO cried "foul" because UE 301 shop stewards carried on their normal grievance and dues collection activities in the face of company interference. During that same period IUE agents were given the freedom to roam the plant at will, hold meetings and make campaign speeches during working hours, and distribute vast quantities of scurrilous leaflets on company property.

Evidently the IUE-CIO would have considered the company "impartial" only if it came out openly and ordered workers to vote against UE.

Before the IUE-CIO protest, UE filed objections to one election result, in Lynn, Mass., because of the active interference of Maurice Tobin, U. S. secretary of labor. Since then UE also has filed protests against the vote in several other places.

\$8,044.80 Award Won For Injured Worker

The General Electric Company has been ordered to pay \$8,044.80 workmen's compensation to Emil Nelson, stock-keeper in the Campbell Ave. plant, for injuries to his left shoulder and arm. He was hurt Jan. 4, 1949.

Other recent awards also won through the union include:

\$960 to Margaret Calkins, Bldg. 69 drill press operator, for an accident last Aug. 18 in which a finger was injured.

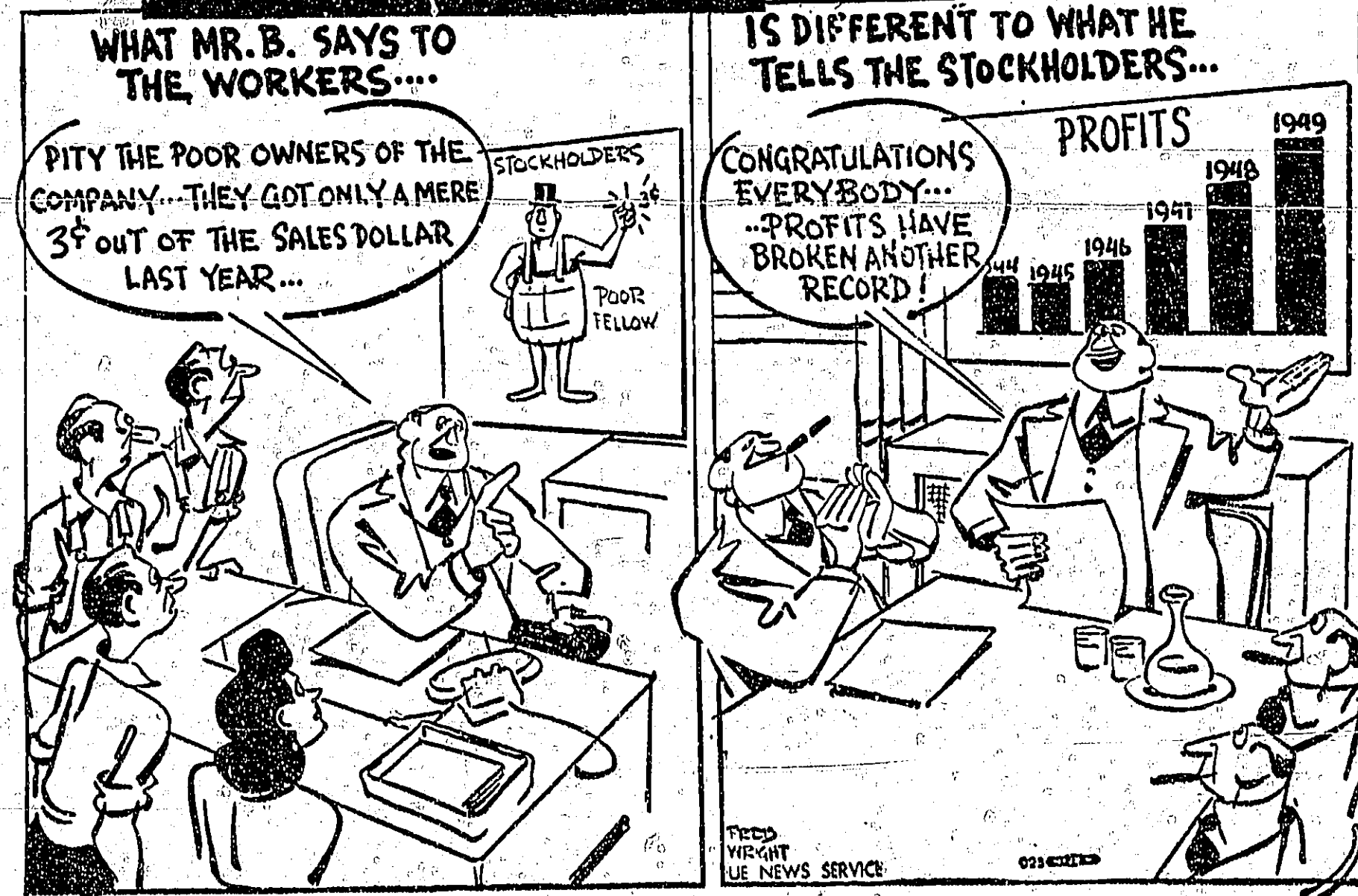
\$500 to Joseph Zubalik, Bldg. 16 drill press operator, for a facial scar resulting from an injury Dec. 1, 1947.

\$275 to Ronald Dzikowski, Bldg. 273 crane follower, for a facial scar resulting from an accident last Sept. 17.

New GE Shop Organized

UE has just organized a new GE service shop at Elizabeth, N. J. The workers voted to notify GE that UE is the union of their choice and to ask for a NLRB election.

MR. BLOWHARD



Board Proposals on Organizing, Reinstatements

Recommendations will be made by the 301 Executive Board to the June membership meeting on:

An organizing drive to unite Schenectady GE workers solidly behind the contract demands.

Reinstatement of people who dropped out of the union during the NLRB election campaign period.

The Board has voted to recommend that for reinstatement all members be required to pay their dues starting with April. Reports from the shops indicate that most of the people who voted for IUE will come back into UE to join with the majority of GE workers here. Many of them have already asked UE stewards or the union office how they can get reinstated in UE.

Reinstatement would of course be barred for the approximately 80 people expelled from 301 membership for IUE activity.

The Board will also recommend that care be exercised to keep out the small number of workers who late in the campaign showed considerable activity in behalf of IUE.

A five-man committee was named to draw up recommendations for the Board to present to the membership on procedures for the organizing drive and on the basis of admitting into membership people who have never belonged to the union. This Board committee consists of Walter Kniffen, William Christman, Teddy Wheeler, Dewey Brashear and Joseph Kelly.

The Board report was approved

by the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday.

The Board has pointed out that widespread cooperation of rank-and-file members is necessary to assist the shop stewards in their job of direct dues collection. Members are asked to take their dues to their stewards, instead of making the stewards go to each individual.

A committee, consisting of Christman, Harold Simpson and James Muir, was appointed by the Board to arrange a series of section nights at which social affairs would be combined with a discussion of union and shop problems.

Victory Won by UE At Ingersoll Rand

UE won a smashing victory over IUE last week in a NLRB election among employees of the Ingersoll Rand Company plants at Phillipsburg and West Easton, N. J. UE polled 1,575 votes, IUE-CIO, 602, and the AFL Pattern Makers League, 64.

At the Ingersoll Rand plant at Painted Post, N. Y., IUE was winner with 824 votes. UE received 275 and IAM, 282.

A runoff will probably take place at the pattern shop at Painted Post where the AFL Pattern Workers got 14 votes; IAM, 12; UE, 7 and IUE, 7.

UE Straightens Out Seniority in Layoffs

Frank Schaaff of GE agreed at a grievance session with Local 301 Tuesday in Building 41 to apply seniority in each group, under each foreman, in temporary layoffs resulting from the AFL steamfitters' strike.

The union had protested that some foremen in Building 273 ignored seniority in making the layoffs. Schaaff admitted this had happened. He said that some of the cases had been straightened out last Friday in the shops and that grievances of this nature should be settled at the foreman's level. Schaaff also said foremen have been instructed to inform workers on a Friday, at the latest, that they would be laid off the following week.

President William Kelly, Vice-President Joseph Mangino, Board Members William Stewart and Larry Gebo, William Templeton, assistant to the business agent, and a group of shop stewards took part in the conference.

Laid-off Toolmakers Placed Through UE

Several Class B toolmakers in Bldg. 17 were laid off this week. Two of them were placed in other jobs as class B toolmakers and the rest were placed on machinist's jobs with rates close to their own.

This kind of placement would be impossible if toolmakers were under a separate IAM contract.

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Bargaining Starts From Old Contract

5-Cent Raise For Craftsmen

A one-step increase of 5 cents or 5 1/2 cents was put into effect Monday for close to 2,000 skilled craftsmen here, as the result of the continuing fight which UE Local 301 has carried on for correction of wages of the skilled trades.

In advising the company that it could go ahead and apply the new rates, UE 301 also sent the company a statement by the craft groups declaring that the raise was "wholly inadequate" and would only "make us more determined to complete the job of adjusting the craft rates." The statement is printed in full in the next column. It was adopted by meetings of the buildings trade Monday night and the tool room and machinist repair groups Wednesday night.

Were in 1948, Fight

The groups covered by the increase were substantially the same that engaged in demonstrations on the issue in the summer of 1948, except that the welders, a few building tradesmen, and most helpers were excluded. Support for these groups in getting an adjustment was pledged by speakers at the building trades meeting Monday and by the executive board.

Lewis J. Male, works manager, and A. C. Stevens, assistant, presented the proposed raise to a 301 committee headed by Leo Jandreau Thursday of last week. Stevens said the company had been studying UE's repeated demands that craft rates be adjusted. He said he knew that UE was asking for more than this in national negotiations, and expected that after UE was certified here by the NLRB for Schenectady, there would also be local negotiations on other rates. For the present, he said, in view of the lack of formal certification, the company would put the rates into effect if there was no objection from UE, the IAM, or IUE-CIO.

UE Membership Acts

UE 301 of course submitted the question to meetings of the groups involved, taking the time necessary.

(Continued on page three)

Organizing Factory Office Workers

A campaign to organize the factory office workers into the UE was opened this week by the UE 301 Executive Board, in response to widespread requests from clerical workers.

In a letter sending UE application cards to all 301 shop stewards, Business Agent Leo Jandreau said that the Executive Board feels that "it should now be possible to sign up a large majority of the factory office workers, and get an NLRB election."

Jandreau added:

"In all likelihood the office workers will be set up as a separate local of UE, although that will not be decided until they are in a position to express their own desires on the subject. In any event they will receive the support and cooperation of Local 301."

Cage dispatchers were in UE 301 and were removed from the bargaining unit by the NLRB decision. Many of them are spearheading the clerical workers' move to organize into UE.

Craft Members' Statement

Following is the statement on the company's craft offer, adopted by the 301 building trades, tool room, and machinist machine repair membership, at meetings held Monday and Wednesday nights:

For the past three years UE Local 301 has led the fight for correction of the wage rates of the skilled crafts. We have made this a major issue in the national negotiations being resumed this week. The vote on May 25 showed the company that it had better take this question seriously.

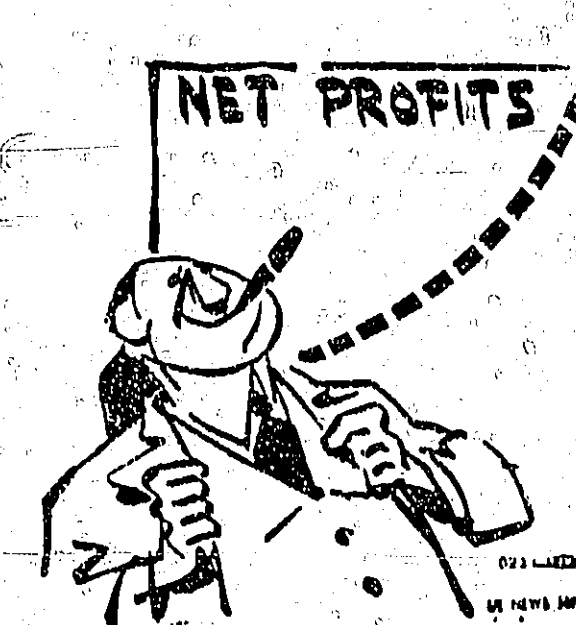
The company has recognized the situation to the extent of offering to put a one-step increase into effect for some of the crafts provided there is no objection from any of the organizations contending in the recent NLRB vote. Of course we do not object to a wage increase for any of our members.

But we make it clear that this concession is wholly inadequate. It will only make us more determined to complete the job of adjusting the craft rates. The offer is unsatisfactory because:

- 1) It unfairly omits the helpers, except in one trade.
- 2) It omits many crafts.
- 3) The amount offered is much too low.

It will require at least three steps to correct most of the craft rates in dispute. By agreeing to such a raise, the company would also settle the current strike of one craft, which is affecting thousands of other GE workers.

We ask the UE 301 Executive Board to advise the company that we have no objection to putting the one-step increase into effect, but that it is merely an interim down payment on what we expect to obtain on the craft rate issue in national negotiations. We shall back the national negotiating committee on this and all the other UE proposals.



301 Membership Meeting Next Week

Contract negotiations, and organization of the plant in support of the negotiations, will be the main business of the regular membership meeting to be held at the union hall next week. Leo Jandreau will report on the New York bargaining sessions.

The meeting time follows:

Second shift—after work Monday night (12:45 a.m. Tuesday).

First and third shifts—Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

All members attending will be required to show their dues books with stamps showing they are in good standing.

UE Demands Benefits For 1949, 1950

Negotiations for a new contract opened Tuesday in New York, with GE agreeing with the UE that bargaining would be on the basis of the old contract. Both sides are proposing changes.

The company refused to reinstate the old contract during the negotiations, as requested by UE. It said again it was maintaining benefits of the old contract.

The bargaining meeting then went into a discussion of the old contract clause by clause, and of changes desired by both sides. UE presented its proposals, which have been published here before. These proposals are intended to cover the suspended 1949 bargaining as well as 1950.

George Pfeif, chief company negotiator, indicated the company wanted changes in the piece work clauses, with particular reference to the guarantee of same earnings after a change of method. He also asked for changes in the application of seniority.

The company delayed stating its position on economic or money demands, using the split among the workers as an excuse. Pfeif said GE now had many unions to deal with, and must hold up its offer because of the practical problems involved.

The company did not challenge UE's right to negotiate because of the IUE's phony protest of the Schenectady and Erie victories. UE has been certified for 34 other plants.

Leo Jandreau is on the negotiating committee, as in all past negotiations. General Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak, a UE 301 member, was in the Tuesday bargaining. The committee includes George Walsh of UE Local 201, Lynn, and Linwood T. Ford, Jr., of 119, Philadelphia, where UE lost but has a large and solid membership.

301 Board Enlarged For Contract Drive

The 301 executive board has enlarged itself to provide broader representation in the drive to complete organization of the plant and back the contract negotiations.

The board was enlarged temporarily by splitting up certain sections in the final campaign for the NLRB vote May 25. With a few changes, this set-up will be continued until the new contract is signed. Then the set-up will be reviewed. The board, including the seven officers, now totals 50 members.

The representation on the board by buildings follows:

- Bldgs. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 — Albert Davis.
- Bldg. 10C — Lawrence E. Parker.
- Bldgs. 22, 23, 24 — Neil J. Dube.
- Bldgs. 25, 26, 28 — Harold D. Simpson.
- Bldgs. 5, 37 — William Delos.
- Bldgs. 12, 14, 16 Annex — Joseph Kelly.
- Bldg. 16 — Joseph Belak.
- Bldg. 20 — Americo Brunetti.
- Bldgs. 12, 14, 16, 29 (2nd shift) — George Quick.
- Bldgs. 15, 17, 19 — Sidney Friedlander.
- Bldg. 18 — William Christman.
- Bldg. 40 — Joseph Kernaghan.
- Bldg. 42 — Roy V. Schaffer.
- Bldgs. 46, 48 — Rossiter Light-hall.
- Bldg. 49 — Walter Kniffen.
- Bldg. 49 (2nd shift) — Steven J. Evans.
- Bldg. 50 — Leo Petre.
- Bldgs. 52, 60, 64, 66 — Mario Bagnato.
- Bldg. 53 — Anthony Esposito.
- Bldgs. 67, 71, 73, 73A, 75, 77, 79, 234 — William Mastriani.
- Bldgs. 65, 69 — Joseph Whitbeck.
- Bldgs. 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 73A, 75, 77, 79, 234 (2nd shift) — William Garrison.
- Bldgs. 68, 72, 76, 238, 241 — Henry Kaminski.
- Bldgs. 80, 84, 227 — Robert Jacobsen.
- Bldgs. — 81, 89 — Dewey Brash-ear.
- Bldgs. 57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C,

IUE-CIO Picks Up Reuther's 5-Year GM Freeze

The IUE-CIO has tailed behind Walter Reuther and signed substantially the same 5-year agreement with General Motors Electrical Division.

Before the five years are over, that agreement will be recognized by most working people as one of the greatest sell-outs ever pulled on members of any union.

When the GM agreement was announced the day before the NLRB vote here, this paper refrained from exposing fully its sell-out nature, because at that time such an attack would have been considered as just election propaganda. Now that the election has been decided, it is necessary to show up this kind of contract, because it has certain apparently attractive features, and it is being given a continuous build-up by CIO leaders, employers, and pro-employer newspapers alike. They would like to fasten this sort of thing on all labor, so that big manufacturers may be completely unhampered in piling up new record profits out of war contracts while workers are speeded-up and laid off.

Obviously the Reuther claim that this is a total "19-cent package" is the same kind of phony arithmetic as the "10-cent package" claim made about the 3-cent settlements with Steel and Ford.

Tied Down for 5 Years

But the main issue is the 5-year feature, which provides quite specifically that for five years no ques-

D, 99A, B, 101, 105 — Robert Phillips.

Bldg. 107 — A. J. Spears.

Building Trades in Bldgs. 60, 273 — Vincent W. Palazek.

Bldg. 85 — Miles G. Moon.

Bldgs. 93, 97, 109 — Edward J. LaBombard.

Bldg. 59 — Fay R. Hildreth.

Bldg. 269 — Leo Sisto.

Bldg. 273 (part) (1st shift) — William Stewart.

Bldg. 273 (part) (2nd shift) — George A. Roode.

Bldg. 273 (part) (3rd shift) — Ernest Criseuolo.

Bldg. 273 (part) (1st shift) — Ted Wheeler.

Bldg. 273 (part) (2nd shift) — Joseph H. Alois.

Bldg. 273 (part) (3rd shift) — Larry Gebo.

Bldg. 285 — Sam Scott.

Bldgs. 11 Test, 13, 13F, 61, 63, 259, 265 — Marshall White.

Bldgs. K-1, Malta, Flight Test, Alplaus — Anthony Villano.

Bldgs. CAP including Race Track — Floyd Thomas.

Women at large — Helen Quirini.

Second shift at large — Fred Pacelli.

For Welders, Inspectors, Production Machinists

Three skilled day work groups who were not included in the one-step craft raise effective this week will meet at the UE 301 hall next week to discuss their rates.

Day work welders will meet Wednesday, June 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Machinists on production work will meet Thursday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Inspectors also will meet Thursday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m., separately from the machinists.

tion can be raised, the contract cannot be reopened for any reason whatever, and there cannot be a slowdown or stoppage for any reason. A worker can be fired for the slightest action on the job, no matter how serious the grievance. And the IUE-CIO gave up the UE shop steward system and accepted the undemocratic CIO procedure and the GM "permanent umpire" system which ties up grievances without settling them.

The company is given the complete right to set "production standards", which simply means speed-up. Speed-up in auto-plants is something which would be a nightmare to electrical workers.

No one can guess what problems will arise in five years. The GM contract forbids any solution to unforeseen problems. It makes a gesture of recognizing increased output by increasing the "annual improvement" raise from 3 cents a year to 4 cents a year. This in face of the fact that from the first three months of 1949 to the first three months of 1950, GM output rose 40 percent, or by two-fifths. This huge increase in productivity is rewarded by a 4-cent raise.

Shorter Work Week the Big Need

The clearest need of the coming period is the shorter work week with 40 hours' pay, to make up for

increased production and to reduce lay-offs. The CIO recognizes this in pretty resolutions. But the GM contract takes the largest single group of workers in the USA completely out of this fight for five years.

And the "up-and-down" cost of living clause is continued.

The president of the GM company already has announced that he expects "increased efficiency" through the contract. GM stock reached the highest price in 20 years on the New York stock exchange. The last previous high was in 1929. It led to the crash and the big depression of the 1930's, as the direct result speed-up and lay-offs.

The contract is wonderful for the company. It turns the once-fighting 275,000 GM workers into a five-year dues-paying machinery, useful as a base for Reuther's union and partisan politics. It leaves the workers helpless for five years to handle the problems which will face them.

Timing Standard Price Brings 105 Stoppage

An attempted time study on a welding and assembly job with a standard price in Building 105 was stopped Monday afternoon by the Works Manager's office, after the whole Industrial Heating Division had stopped work for two days. In Building 93 and 105 only two men worked from noon Thursday of last week to noon Monday. One of the two was expelled recently from UE 301 for IUE-CIO activity.

The time study started Thursday, without explanation. There was no change of method to justify the study. By noon the men had stopped work. Except for the two, the men in all lines of work united, regardless of previous differences, to fight the price cut threat.

On Monday afternoon A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, agreed that there should be a discussion in the shop as to whether or not a time study was called for and why. The company claimed it was only looking for data to set up a PR table. The men said supervision was looking for ways to cut standard prices. A shop meeting is scheduled for today.

The men were represented in Building 41 by Board Member Robert Phillips, Stewards Edmund Paska and Steven Borovicka, a shop committee and the UE 301 grievance committee.

Pensioners to Meet

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the union hall.

UE 301 Letter to Steamfitters

The following letter was sent by the 301 Executive Board following action by the 301 craft groups on the wage rate issue:

MR. KEITH ROCKWELL, Business Agent
Local 128, Plumbers and Steamfitters AFL
Schenectady, New York

Dear Sir and Brother:—

The Executive Board of UE Local 301 renews this union's invitation to your local to join with us in a common fight on craft rates, as well as for the other benefits to which GE workers are entitled out of the record profits of the company.

Enclosed is a copy of a statement adopted by our building, trades, tool room, and machinist machine repair membership on the craft rate issue.

You will recall that we invited your membership to join us in the craft rate fight in 1948, again early in 1949, and recently when you were preparing to go on your current strike. We feel that the experience of the past 14 years and of recent weeks shows the urgent need of common action by all workers in the plant together.

We shall be glad to meet with you to discuss the practical working out of this proposal.

Faternally yours,

WILLIAM J. KELLY, president
LEO JANDREAU, business agent

Five Cent Raise

(Continued from page one)

sary for proper consideration by them. As a humorous sidelight, the IUE-CIO, with no organized membership, and no meeting, announced to the papers that it "accepted."

The raise goes to all men on jobs with a rate of \$1.565 or higher, even if the man himself has not yet reached the rate. It does not go to those above the previous top, who already are receiving the new job rate.

The groups involved are all Tool-makers, including Model makers,

and A and B classifications in the following:

Tool Room Machine Operators, including G & L and Keller operators and Combination Die Grinders, Development Machinists, Machinists Machine Repair, Electricians, Masons, Millwrights, Steelworkers, Tinsmiths, Carpenters, Riggers, Roofers, Painters, Pipe Coverers, Crane and Elevator Repair and Inspection, Machine Tool Fitters, Sign Painters, Fabricate and Install Ventilation, and Silk Screen Man.

The only helpers now affected are those in the electricians' group, who will be raised to \$1.46 after being for one year at the \$1.405 rate.

Joint Action Offered Steamfitters by UE 301

The UE 301 Executive Board on Wednesday wrote the striking Steamfitters' union to renew once again 301's invitation to join with UE 301 in the craft rate fight.

The letter was sent after the 301 craft groups had told the company to go ahead and put its offered one-step raise into effect, but that the fight would continue and it would take at least three steps to correct the craft rates. The 301 craft groups' statement noted that such a raise would settle the steamfitters' strike, as they are asking for a two-step raise.

The UE 301 letter reminded the steamfitters that the experience of many years had shown the need of all workers in this plant acting together instead of separately.

The letter did not recite the experiences, but they are known to all long service workers here.

One craft union after another was tried at GE and failed until UE came along as an industrial union.

The Steamfitters' union existed before UE, but first began to get effective bargaining through the UE. Its raises were negotiated through UE, including the last special ten-cent raise won by UE for the steamfitters and electricians in War Labor Board and plant action by UE. Now the separate action by the Steamfitters' union affects thousands of other GE workers, but has not made the company yield.

The 301 Executive Board invitation would leave the Steamfitters' union independent of UE, but would restore unity of action.

"Section Nights" Set For Three Groups

The current series of "Section Night" parties starts tonight.

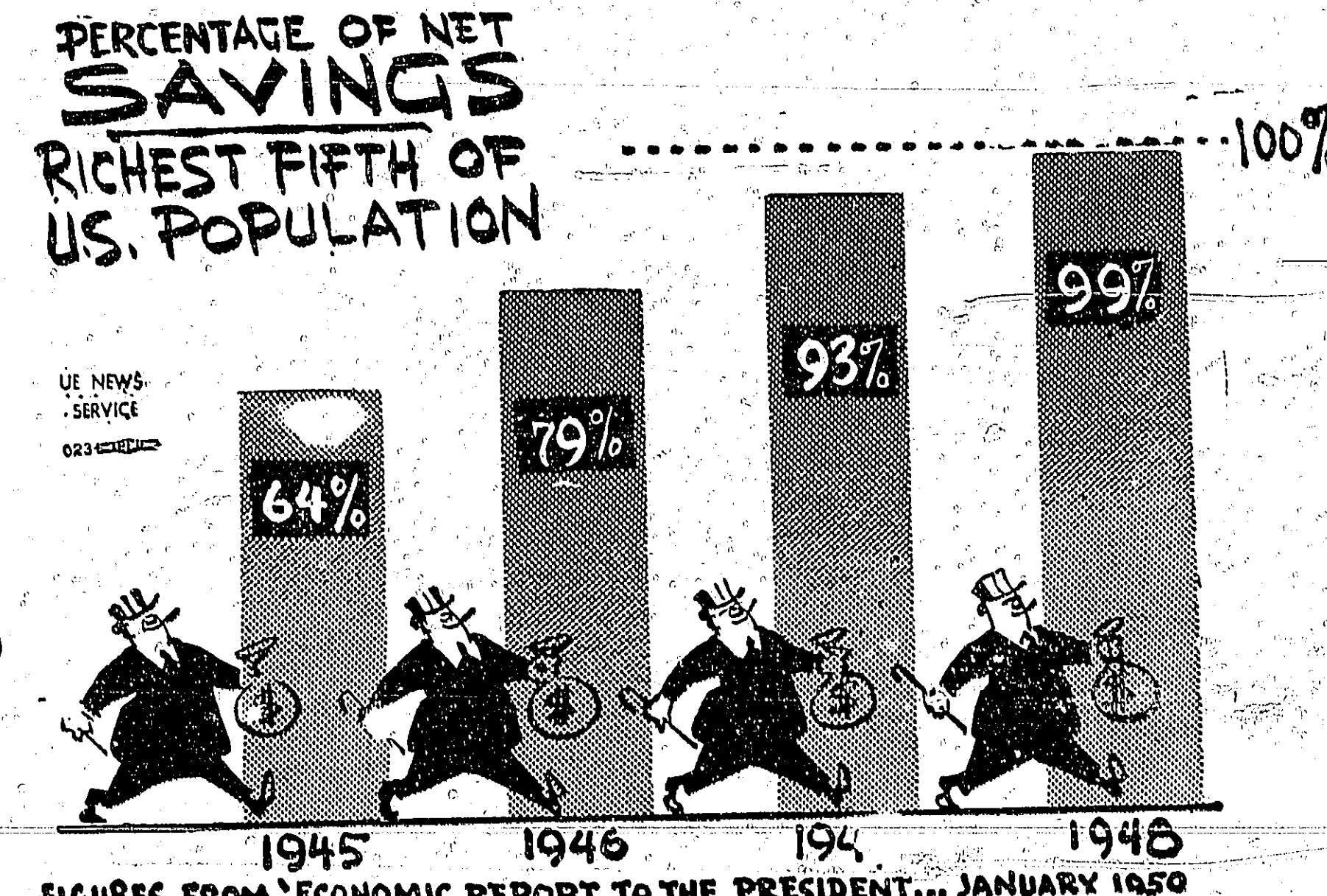
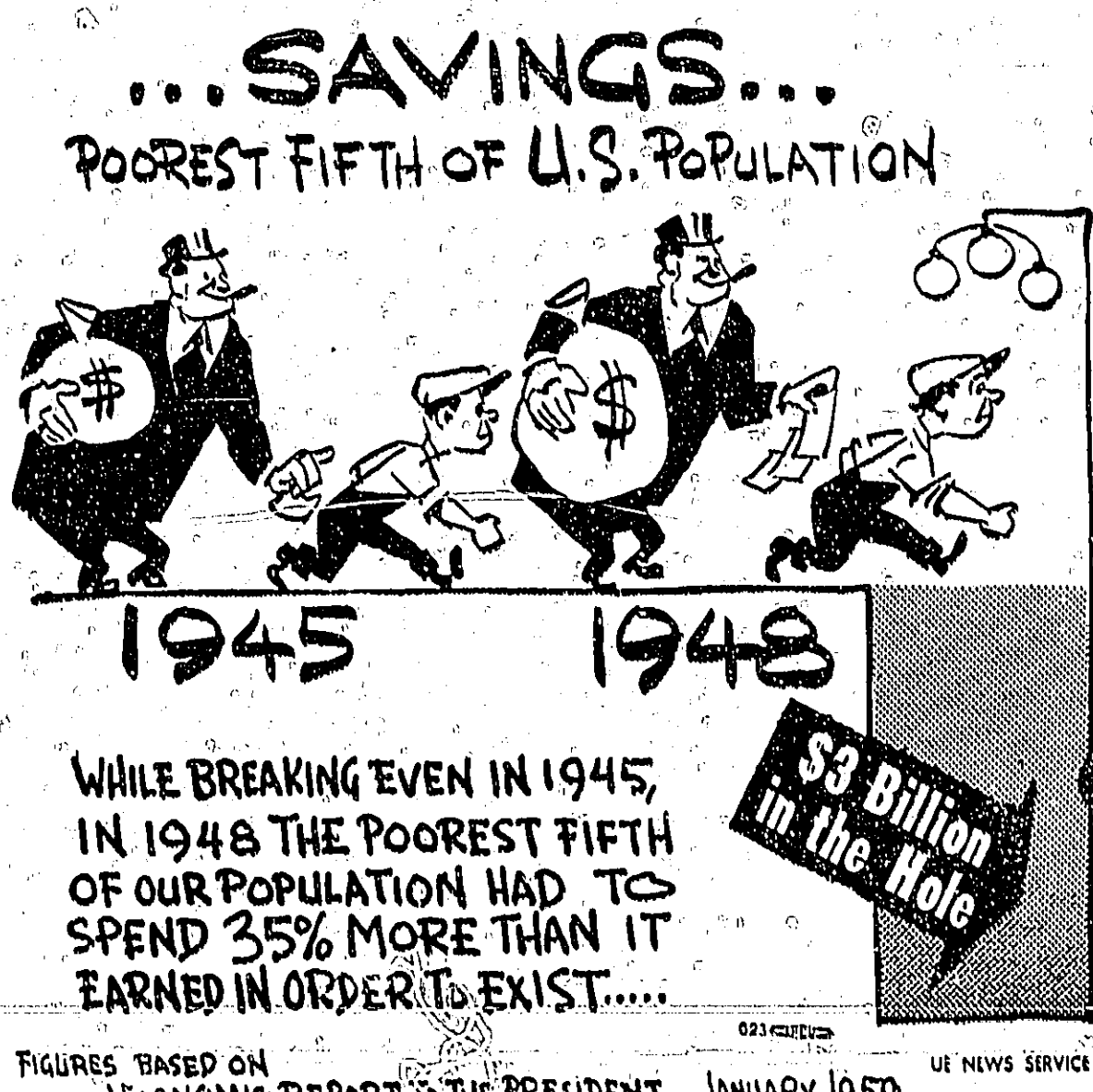
A committee named by the executive board, including William Christman, Harold Simpson, James Cognetta, and Rudy Radosevich, is helping plan the parties.

The Section nights already scheduled include:

Friday, June 16 — Bldgs. 65, 69, 73, 73A, 67, 71, 75, 77, 79, and 234 (Board Members William Mastriani and Joseph Whitbeck). Entertainment by Joseph AhKao with guitar and Peter (Bucky) Pisano and his Harmony Four. Tickets 35 cents.

Friday, June 23 — Bldgs. 52, 60, 64, 66, (Board Member Mario Bagnato). Tickets 35 cents.

Friday, June 30 — Bldg. 85, (Board member Miles Moon). Tickets 50 cents.



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