

## Pensioners Hear Jandreau Report

More than 75 GE pensioners heard first hand reports on the UE's contract fight to obtain living pensions for them at an outing of the Local 301 Pensioners Organization July 28 at Scotia.

"The GE pension plan is a disgrace to the company, to the community and to the country," Business Agent Leo Jandreau told them.

The union has told the company he reported, that it should be ashamed of the fact that workers who made the huge GE profits possible can't live decently on their pensions, but have to go to county homes or go on relief rolls.

UE had pensioners tell their own stories at one negotiating session, Jandreau said. But GE officials didn't change their stand against improving pensions. They merely said they were "sorry" to hear of such hardships.

Albert Vander Zee, president of the 301 Pensioners Organization, reported to the outing on his remarks at this negotiating session, attended by both GE Vice President L. R. Boulware and George Pfeif.

"I said pensioners don't expect to get as much as Charlie Wilson or Boulware," he reported, "but we want respectable pensions so that we can raise our heads and look people square in the face."

William Turnbull, retired GE worker who was formerly president of Local 301, spoke on the need for winning decent pensions and backing the whole UE bargaining program. He came east recently from California where has been living.

The pensioners had a picnic lunch and played cards. They were guests of Local 301.

### Vacation Shutdowns

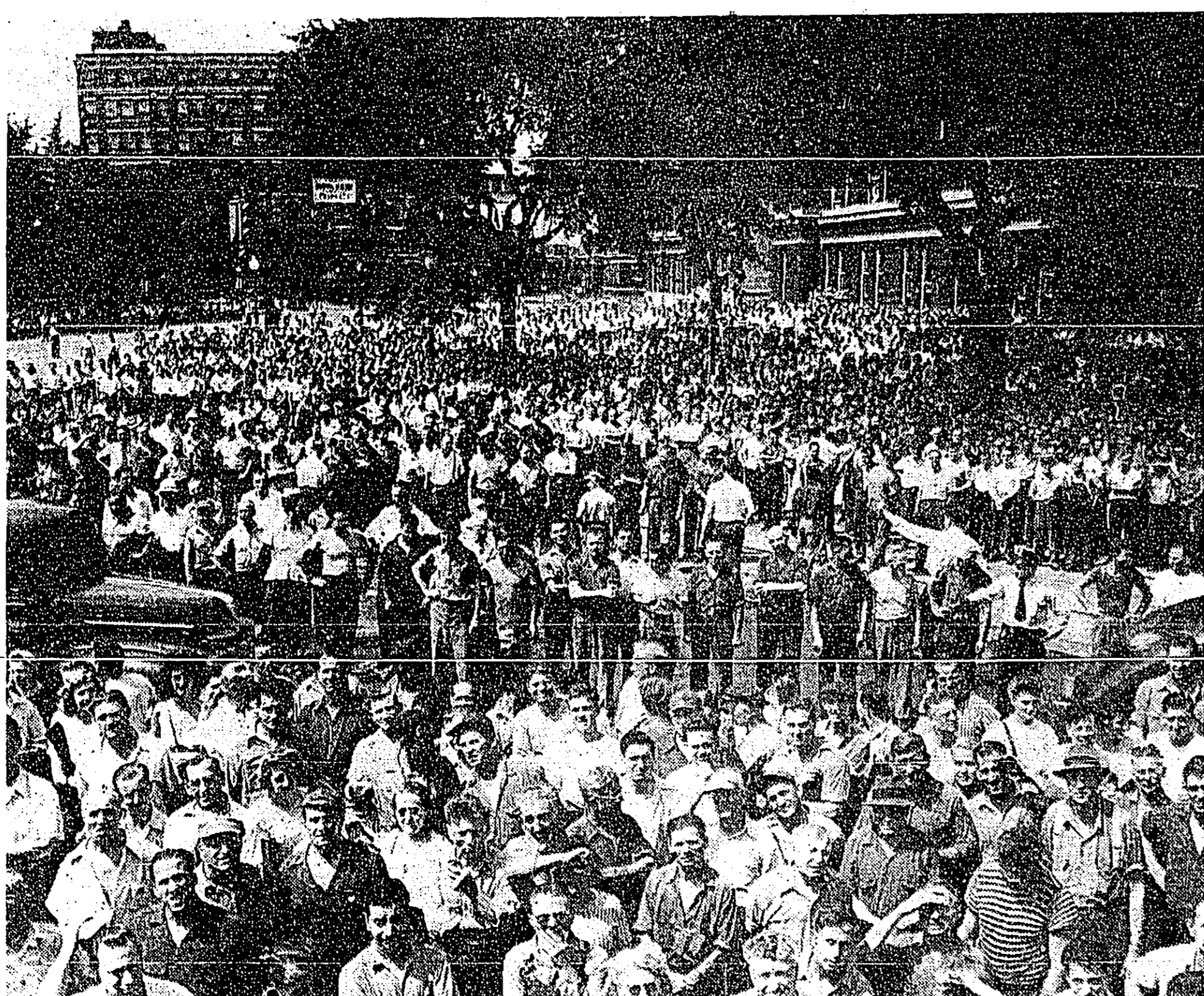
A worker who is forced out of work, without pay, for any part of a vacation shutdown should take the following steps immediately:

Register at the Unemployment Insurance office the first day that he is out of work without vacation pay.

Report the facts to the union office, giving his name, address and social security number.

The union will fight for the unemployment insurance rights of all such workers.

## Left Work to Attend Plant Gate Meeting



About 10,000 first shift workers left the shops at 11:30 a.m. Thursday of last week for the plant-gate meeting on the contract negotiations. This picture shows part of the big turn-out.

### Isn't That Too Bad!

John E. O'Connor, the Remington Rand scab from Iliion who was working as an assembler in the Campbell Ave. plant, was laid off recently for lack of work. He promptly asked for a job on the GE's labor relations staff, but was turned down.

O'Connor led an attempted back to work movement at the Remington Rand plant in Iliion during the 1947 UE strike there. He was an Executive Board member and shop steward of Local 334 at Iliion when the strike started. Local 334 expelled him for life.

In Schenectady O'Connor applied for membership in 301. As soon as he was identified the application was rejected.

### Did You Know?

Since the end of the war, in the electrical and machine industry profits are up 180 per cent; pay is up only 19 per cent; jobs are down 13 per cent.

ATTEND THE UNION MEETINGS

### Silly Stuff

It has been reported to the union office that in various divisions the company has issued a modified form of warning notice to the members over the plant gate meeting held last week.

Evidently the purpose of the form is to scare some of the members. There is no reason for being scared. Warning notices and similar devices have no standing. The membership voted several years ago to ignore them. Members should refuse to sign any such form or notice.

### Fight These Bills

The 301 Executive Board voted recently that 301 should intensify its fight against the Mundt-Nixon-Ferguson Bills. Under the pretext of attacking Communists, the bills attempt to destroy the Bill of Rights. They endanger every trade union and progressive or liberal organization.

## GE Locals Hold Gate Meetings

Big shop-gate meetings at the Philadelphia and Erie GE plants last week authorized their delegates to the GE Conference Board to call for a strike vote to be taken among GE locals. They also approved other recommendations of the Conference Board.

Special membership meetings, which also approved the Conference Board program, were held by GE locals at Bridgeport, Trenton, Syracuse, De Kalk, and Danville and the Local 1151 Chicago Service Shop.

The Lynn and Pittsfield locals postponed their meetings until after the vacation shutdown. Reports from other locals had not been received by the national UE office when this paper went to press.

### Cancer Drive

Shop stewards have turned \$223.43 into the union office in the cancer fund collection.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

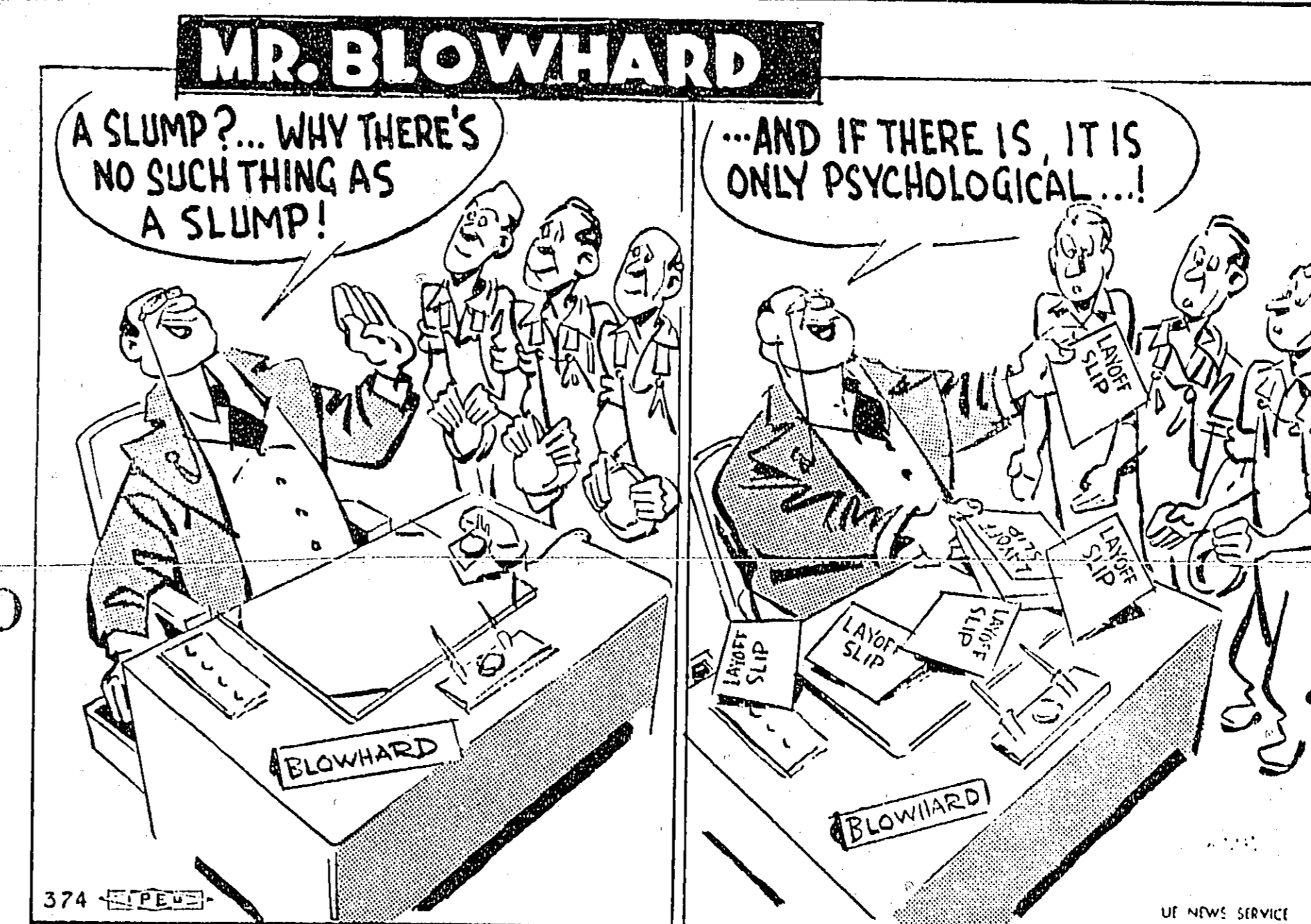
U. E. R. & M. W. A.

C. I. O.

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August 12, 1949



## Jobless Pay Demand Led By UE Pickets

A Local 301 picketline before the Unemployment Insurance office Tuesday protested the continuing delays in issuing checks to which the unemployed are entitled. It also launched locally the petition drive for a special session of the New York State legislature to adopt a program on unemployment.

Similar picket lines marched Tuesday before unemployment insurance offices in cities from New York to Buffalo. They were part of the program mapped jointly by Districts 3 and 4 of UE.

### Some Still Wait

Despite numerous protests by UE and other unions, some of the laid-off workers still have not received their checks for as many as 9 weeks, because of delays by the state unemployment headquarters in getting earning figures to the district offices.

In charge of the picketing and petition activity for Local 301 is the committee on unemployment headed by Robert Northrop, recently laidoff in Building 17. A volunteer committee of unemployed members was elected at a meeting of unemployed members Monday night, to work with the main committee in carrying out the UE program for the benefit of laid-off workers. The volunteers included Caroline Reger, recently of Building 10-C, Dennis Jackson, of 17, Philip Bayer of 52, Myrtle Tooley and Eleanor Wolfe of 89, and George Anderson of 273. One laid-off worker travelled 45 miles from Worcester, N. Y. to attend the meeting.

### Sign Petitions

Laid-off workers coming out of the unemployment office welcomed the pickets and flocked to sign the petition. The petition also will be circulated in the plant. It calls upon Governor Dewey to summon a special session to adopt the following:

1. State public works at union wages;
  2. Raise jobless benefits to \$40
- (Continued on Page 4)

## Activities on Negotiations to Start Up As Vacation Shutdowns Come to End

With vacation shutdowns in a large part of the General Electric set-up throughout the country ending today, activity around the negotiations is scheduled to start again next week.

Some locals will meet on the recommendations of the GE Conference Board of UE locals after the shutdowns. It is expected that the Conference Board will be called back into session late this month. Local 301's six delegates will go with unanimous authority from the membership in plant gate meetings to vote to call for a formal strike vote throughout the GE system.

The government panel named to make recommendations in the steel dispute is scheduled to report about August 30. But it would be very dangerous for GE workers to sit back and expect their recommendation to solve their problems.

In the first place, GE does not recognize conditions in the steel industry as necessarily applying ours.

Secondly, the Steelworkers do not have paid holidays nor pensions in their big plants. Therefore the panel could recommend something that would look like a gain

in Steel, but would mean little or nothing in GE.

Third and most important — any recommendation from the steel panel is bound to be a lot less than what the workers have a right to expect under present circumstances. Of course President Truman has to make some concession to Philip Murray in return for Murray's all-out support of Truman and the compromises which resulted in the sell-out of Taft-Hartley repeal. But any such concession through a government board will be a lot less than what could be won by a united fight of the workers in steel, auto, and electrical, as proposed by UE.

The GE's workers fight is in their own hands.

### 15 1/2 Cent Package

A new UE contract at F. L. Smither Machine Company, New York City, won a 15 1/2 cent wage package for the workers.

## Back Pay Won From GE

Back pay totaling \$870 was won for three workers at the GE plant at Trenton, N. J., by UE Local 204. In the final step of the local grievance procedure management admitted it had been paying the wrong rates to the three.

## Meeting Next Week Of Members, Stewards

Delegates to the State CIO convention will be elected at the combined membership and shop stewards' meeting of Local 301 next week at the union hall. All stewards and first and third shift members are to meet at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday, Aug. 16. Second shift members will meet at 1 p. m. Wednesday, Aug. 17. Contract negotiations will be discussed.

This will be the last of the summer joint meetings as the union will return to the regular schedule in September, with the stewards' meeting the first Tuesday night of each month and the membership meeting the third Tuesday night and for second shift members the following afternoon.

**WIN THE 35 HOUR WEEK TO STOP GE LAY-OFFS**

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



"THIS NEW BILL OF MINE WOULD REQUIRE ALL WORKERS TO PAY EMPLOYERS FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK."

### Lay-offs Look "Good" From a Swivel Chair

The secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce in Ontario, Calif., has gone GE one better in its current refrain that there's nothing too bad about the current lay-offs. The chamber official made a public statement that the layoffs at the GE plant in Ontario were a "good thing," and "essential for sound economy."

UE Local 1012 challenged the statement in a letter asking the chamber spokesman to answer the question, "What's good about a lay-off? The union pointed out that 350 GE workers may lose their homes and be in want as the result of the lay-offs."

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### How's Your Readjustment?

GE workers who have been laid-off, downgraded, or put on short time may or may not be consoled by the knowledge that GE's Charles E. Wilson says they are just going through "a period of readjustment" which is "both necessary and desirable."

And furthermore Wilson sees a "favorable outlook for an expanding economy."

All this is from Wilson's quarterly message to stockholders, as quoted in last week's Works News.

Wilson added:  
"We are not readjusting permanently downward. We are readjusting from a period of abnormal growth to one of normal growth and expansion."

On February 10, 1930 Hoover's Secretary of Commerce Lamont, also a New York big money man, said:

"There are grounds for assuming that this is about a normal year."

That was the year the American economy was hitting the toboggan slide which resulted in 15,000,000 unemployed.

### How Labor Can Win Taft-Hartley Fight

Repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and restoration of the Wagner Act could have been won in the present session of Congress, Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, said in a recent analysis.

A militant campaign by labor can yet achieve these aims from the existing 81st Congress, either in late 1949 or the early weeks of 1950, Nixon declared.

"Labor cannot wait for Taft-Hartley repeal until after the 1950 elections. Continuation of this law against labor under developing conditions of depression can have devastating results."

Nixon cited the close votes on Taft-Hartley in the Senate and the House of Representatives to show that labor could have won with a vigorous campaign. He analyzed the reasons for labor's failure as being:

#### Campaigned from the Top

1. Failure of top AFL and CIO leadership to mobilize the rank-and-file membership in the campaign for repeal. Instead they tried to handle matters from the top by political maneuvers and deals. UE was the only large union to present mass petitions and send delegations to Washington. The National CIO reversed its past policy and took an official stand against sending rank-and-file delegations to the Capitol.

2. The mistake of the AFL and CIO leadership in agreeing to devastating compromises accepting

major portions of the Taft-Hartley law, during crucial stages of the Senate and House debates.

#### Fatal Compromises

These labor leaders actively supported the Rayburn-Sims Bill in the House, which included injunctions and affidavit provisions. They supported the so-called Douglas amendment in the Senate which actually provided for injunctions through government seizure of struck plants, extended the affidavit provision and included other Taft-Hartley ideas. UE fought against these sell-out "compromises", along with the United Mine Workers, the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. But Steel, Auto and Textile representatives backed the union-busting "compromises."

3. The surrender of their political independence by labor officials, particularly CIO leaders, to become the tag-end of the Democratic Party.

#### What to Do

To reverse these failures, Nixon said, labor must:

1. Drop all talk of accepting compromises and demand 100 per cent repeal of Taft-Hartley and 100 per cent restoration of the Wagner Act.

2. Mobilize the 15,000,000 rank-and-file members in the fight against Taft-Hartley.

3. Put labor's political action on a completely independent basis, so that no party can boast it has labor "in its pocket". Political action should start at once, —not wait till the 1950 elections.

### Free "Trenton Six" Drive Urged by District 3

The recent meeting of UE District Council 3 in Syracuse voted to call on the UE locals to continue their campaign to free the "Trenton Six," the six Negro defendants whose death sentence was set aside by the New Jersey Supreme Court. Letters should go to Governor Albert E. Driscoll of New Jersey.

Local 301 was among the many unions which protested the obvious frame-up of these men, an attempt at a northern lynching. On the basis of errors in the trial, the state's highest court ordered that they should have a new trial. It is plain from points raised in this decision that the state has no case against these men.

Leo Jandreau is president of District Council 3. Also representing 301 at the meeting were Board Members William Stewart and William Mastriani.

The Gaeth broadcast is at 10 p. m. every Monday on WXXK.

### Unemployment Here Continues Climb

Jobless workers registered at the Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office as of August 5 numbered 3,750. The last announced figure before that was 3,510 as of July 22.

The actual climb in unemployment is greater than shown above, because on July 22 some veterans who do not qualify for state unemployment pay were registered for federal "52-20" benefits. Congress allowed "52-20" to expire July 25. Such veterans can not register now.

Of course neither the previous nor the latest figure shows unemployed workers who have exhausted their benefits under the law.

### Will Fight Removals At National Level

Local 301's charge that GE engaged in a gross violation of the contract by removing workers from their jobs in Aeronautics and Ordnance has been referred to the national UE office for discussion with the national GE management.

A. C. Stevens, assistant works manager has not replied to the 301 executive board's letter of last week but he issued a newspaper statement Tuesday seeking to justify the company's conduct.

Stevens told the newspapers that GE was "doing only what is necessary to comply with the security regulations of the armed forces which we are bound to observe under our contracts."

This was different from what he told the 301 executive board and Bldg. 46 shop stewards in a grievance meeting last week. At that time he said GE acted under policies set by the government, but that the specific decision to remove the workers was made by the company alone.

The executive board also pointed out that the armed forces have no authority to instruct GE to violate either the contract or the law.

After Stevens made his statement to the papers, 301 made public its own letter listing the violations. The letter concluded:

"The company stands in gross violation of the contract, in disregard of ordinary human rights, in a move calculated to destroy seniority and to interfere with contract negotiations."

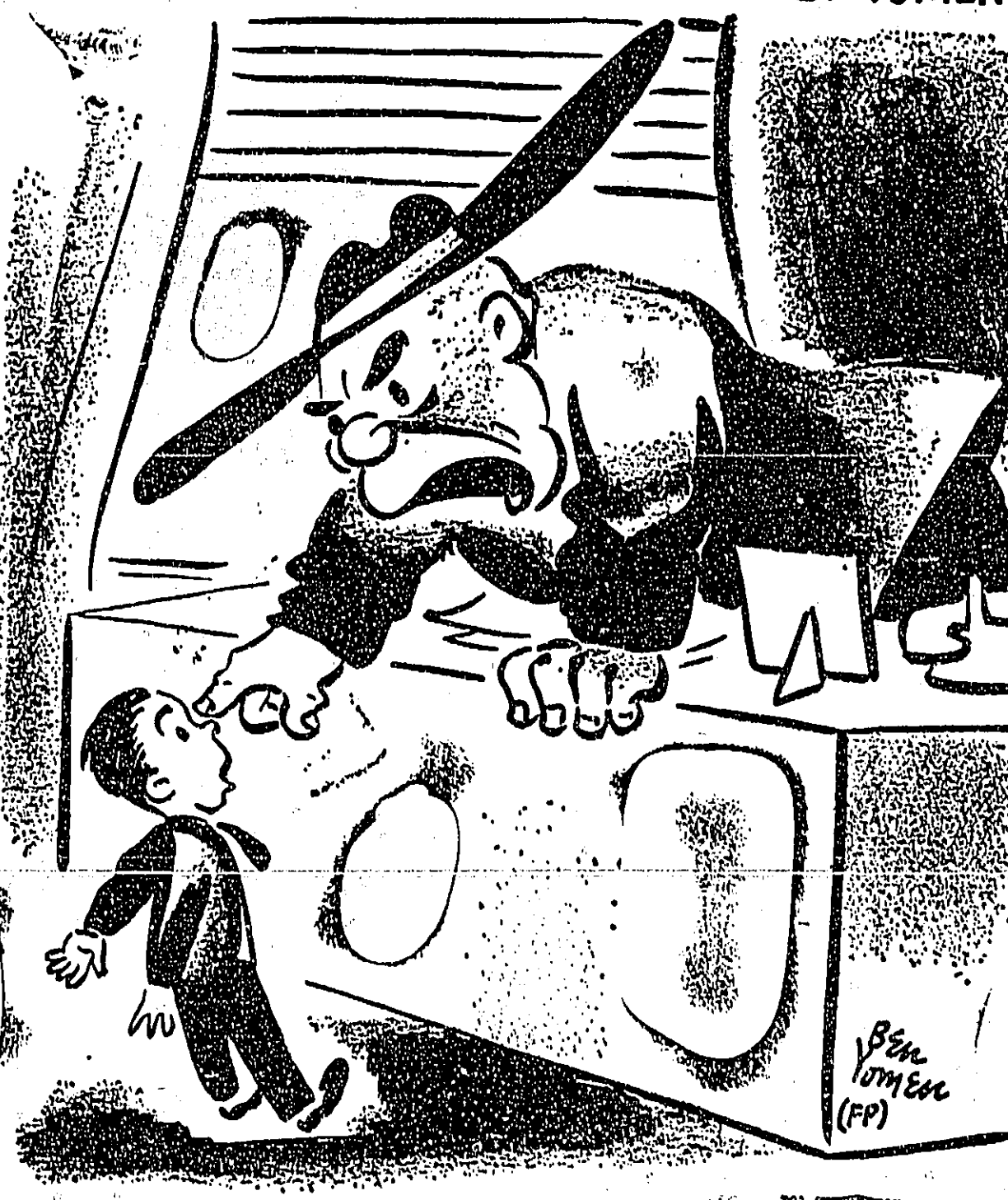
Reports on the situation were made to meetings of Bldg. 46 members last week and of all groups affected by "security" regulations this week.

### 12 Cent Package

UE Local 217 has won a 12 cents an hour package increase at Elliott Addressing Machine Company, Boston.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"DON'T YOU DARE ASK FOR A RAISE! REMEMBER, YOU TOOK THE LOYALTY OATH!"

### Fate of Unions at GE After First World War

(This is the second of a series of articles on unsuccessful efforts of craft unions to make headway at GE before UE organized on an industrial basis.)

During World War I unions at Schenectady GE were in a strategic position, according to "How Collective Bargaining Works," a book issued by the Twentieth Century Fund.

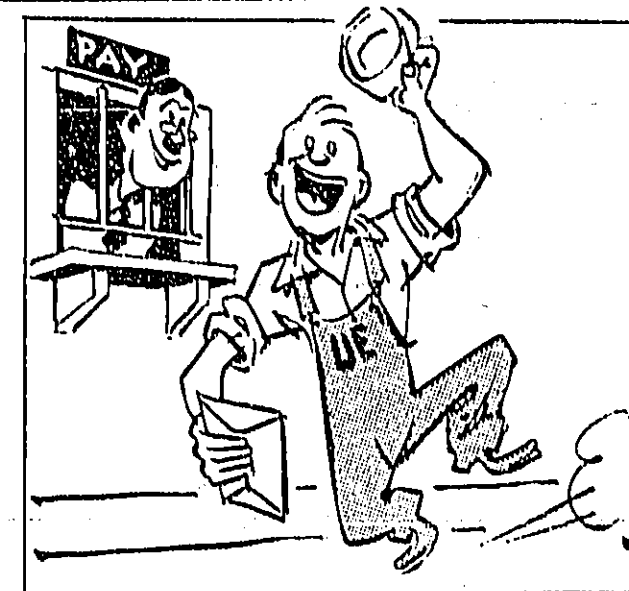
"Booming production, a sympathetic city administration and the plant manager's favorable attitude contributed to the success of the Council (Metal Trades Council, AFL)."

"The end of the war, however,

marked the beginning of disaster. In 1918 and 1920 strikes in support of unions in other General Electric plants were lost.

"The depression of 1920-1921 accelerated the decline in prestige. Where formerly the unions had unofficially lifted an individual worker's production, the bars were now let down and competitions for bonuses spread.

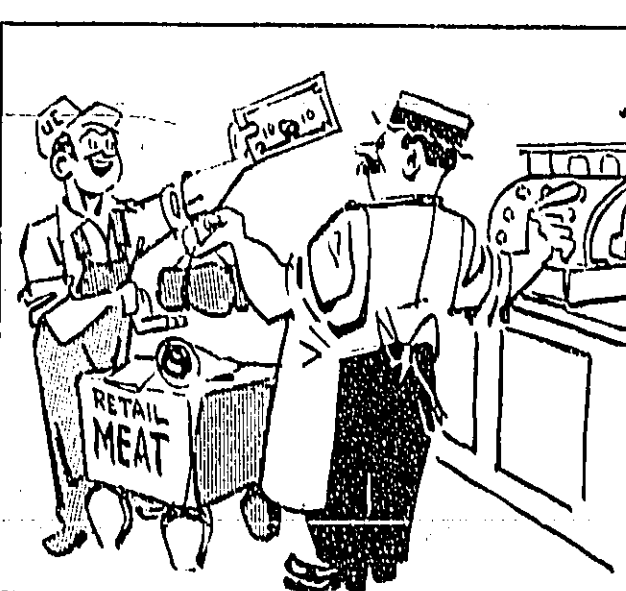
"In 1921 wage cuts of 10 per cent and of 10 cents an hour were made at six-month intervals without much opposition. Although some organizations did not crumble until the late 1920's, only the pattern makers and the steamfitters survived the decade and a half from the end of the war to the New Deal."



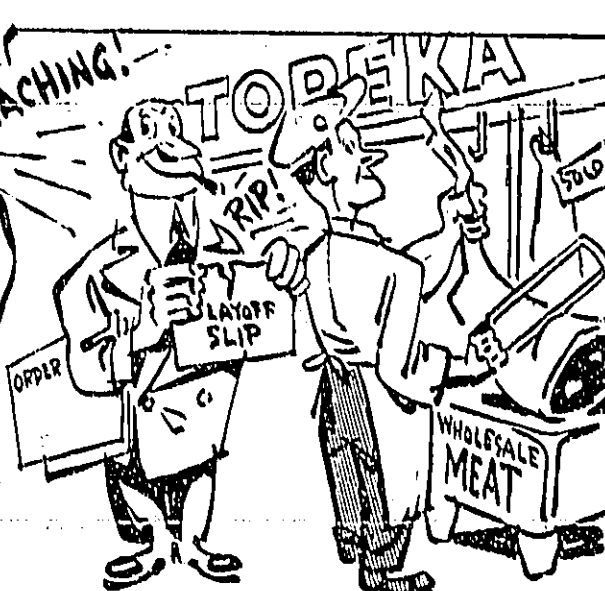
DYNAMO DAN YELLED, "EUREKA!"



"A TEN DOLLAR RAISE PER WEEK!"



THEN BECAUSE HE WAS ABLE TO BUY STEAK FOR HIS TABLE



HE SAVED A MAN'S JOB IN TOPEKA!

### Schenectady 1948 Pittsburgh 1949

Once again UE is getting its annual Convention build-up, or rather its dose of interference, from Congressional labor-haters working hand-in-glove with Carey "Democratic Action" supporters inside the union.

This time it's the un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives, and the intended victims are the members of the big Westinghouse Local 601 in East Pittsburgh.

The Committee opened a "hearing" in Washington this week on alleged "Communist infiltration" into the local.

Election of delegates from Local 601 to the UE Convention is scheduled to take place this coming Sunday. Red-baiting officers of that local have been losing ground with the membership. UE has obtained definite information that late in July Pittsburgh men both from inside UE and from the outside group seeking to control UE through Carey met with Pennsylvania Congressmen to seek help in the form of a "hearing". This would produce huge red-baiting headlines just before the delegate election. On August 3 the "hearing" was announced, and Stanley Glass, secretary of Local 601, said he welcomed the probe.

Albert J. Fitzgerald, UE general president, said in a statement on the matter:

"As they have always done in the past, UE members will repudiate this meddling in their affairs and will know how to treat traitors within their ranks who join in sponsoring it. In past years a few UE quislings have tried to build themselves up with the help of anti-union Congressional committees. They are now universally held in contempt."

Fitzgerald cited as examples, Salvatore Vottis of Schenectady, Joe Julianello of Bridgeport, James Conroy of New York, and Ralph Moses of Dayton.