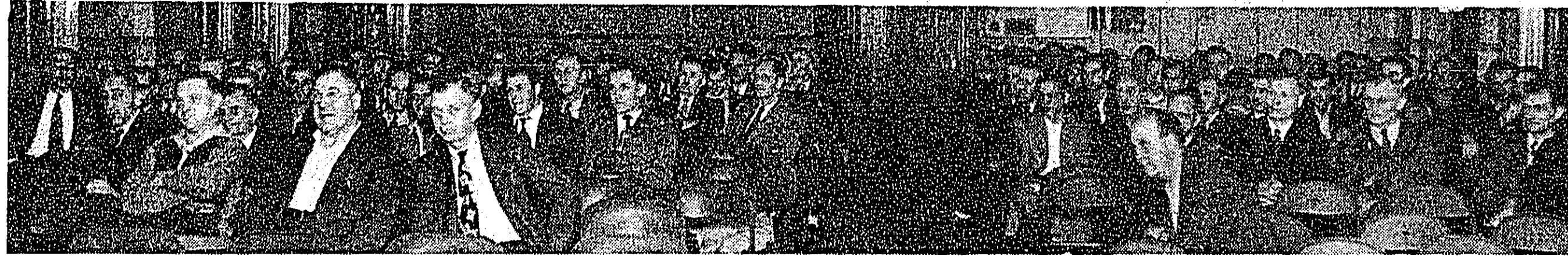


Toolmakers and Welders Plan Action on Wage Inequities



Above, the meeting of toolmakers, June 9 which voted to refuse overtime work after the national contract negotiations end, in protest against inequities in their rates.



Welders at a meeting June 8 protest GE's refusal to pay higher rates to skilled crafts. They have a committee to cooperate with other crafts.

Overtime Refusal Favored by Crafts

Toolmakers and building trades craftsmen moved last week to withhold all overtime work as a protest against the company's refusal either to negotiate or arbitrate the issue of inequities in the wage rates for skilled crafts.

A poll of the building trades taken in the shop showed an overwhelming majority in favor of refusing overtime. The committee of building trades shop stewards was meeting this week to plan specific steps.

A big meeting of toolmakers Wednesday of last week voted to stop overtime after the national negotiations are over. There were 10 dissenting votes. The toolmakers also decided to hold another meeting after the action of the membership on the contract.

The special committee set up by the welders met Monday night and heard reports that there was complete unity among all groups, except in one building, in support of united action to correct the welders' rates. A sub-committee was named to consult with other craft groups on joint action. The sub-committee includes Frank O'Neill and Henry Fazzone, of Bldg. 66, Henry Plourde, 60, and George Farr, 273.

Machinists met the same night as the toolmakers, and discussed joint action with the other crafts. They also arranged for a further

meeting this week.

Other groups which met last week to press demands for correction of inequities included the millmen in the carpenter shop in Bldg. 76, and the auto, battery truck, and locomotive repair group in 84.

The toolmakers also set up a committee to draw up a code of ethics to govern toolmakers' work, which code would be taken up with the company. The committee includes Joseph Krone, Bldg. 46, Anthony Esposito and John Kasitch, 53, Edward Wallingford, 60, Harry Harvey, 37, Michael Tedisco and Rudy Kverek, 17, Joseph Whitbeck, 69, and Ed Smith, Peck Street.

Stewards' Classes Start Next Week

Special classes for shop stewards are scheduled to start next week. First and third shift stewards will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, and second shift stewards at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 23.

The classes are designed especially to assist the large number of new stewards elected in the last three months. It's a good chance for other stewards to discuss their problems in handling grievances and study the application of the contract.

301 on Air

The weekly broadcast of Local 301 is at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday over WSNY.

At Least He's Frank!

"If full employment means a job for every man and woman who is willing and able to work, then it is not desirable in a fine functioning economy."

That's a quotation from the speech made recently to the annual meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers by Paul Hoffman, head of Studebaker. He has been named to carry out the Marshall plan through the Economic Cooperation Administration.

Blood Donations

James Petraske, shop steward in Bldg. 269, obtained three other volunteers to join him in donating blood to be credited by the Ellis Hospital blood bank to a 301 member who had to have six transfusions. The hospital patient, Paul Zimmerman, belongs to Petraske's group at the shop. Through the union office, a donation made several months ago was credited to Zimmerman and another volunteer also was located.

Type O blood is the most in demand, the hospital has notified the union.

New Stewards

Robert J. Phillips, Bldg. 95, and Charles Fritschles, Bldg. 28, were sworn in as shop stewards at the membership meeting Tuesday night.

Jennie Tescione Ahead in Contest

First reports on the contest for queen of Local 301 Field Day place Jennie Tescione, Bldg. 81, in the lead with 7,500 votes.

Antoinette Restina, Bldg. 12, is second with 4,000; Grace Burns, Bldg. 60, has 2,850 and Thelma Willey, Bldg. 24, has 2,000. Although tickets are being sold that will be credited to Alice Mattice, Bldg. 66, and Ann De Celli, Bldg. 53, the reports haven't been turned in yet for those girls.

Another feature of Field Day, July 10 at Columbian Park, Dunnsville Rd., will be awarding of a 1948 Studebaker. The car will be on exhibition next week in State St. near Jay St.

Mrs. Dorothy Perlin, in charge of lining up entertainment acts by 301 members, is looking for actors for a skit. She needs a man to play the lead role of a worker and she also needs a narrator. The narrator simply has to read his lines. People interested in trying out should notify the union office or telephone Mrs. Perlin at 2-0885.

How GE Fights Inflation

General Electric Company has obtained temporary injunctions restraining eight New York City appliance dealers from selling GE products below prices set by the company. Supreme Court Justice Edward R. Ruch of New York, issued the injunction.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

June 25, 1948

Building Trades Refuse Overtime

The first action this year by craft groups to obtain a correction of their wage rates began last week, when the building trades members, numbering close to 600, refused to work any further overtime. They explained to their foremen that they were protesting the company's refusal to adjust their rates or arbitrate the wage dispute.

The craft groups also moved to coordinate their activities in support of their demands. Committees elected by the different groups met at the union hall Wednesday night for this purpose.

The machinists' committee was elected at the machinists' biggest meeting to date, held Thursday night and Friday afternoon of last week. The committee included Henry Hoffman, Building 17, Mike Laudato, 46; Martin Maul, 53; Walter Neff, 60; Albert Keller, Eskil Grann, and George Dight, 101; and Donald McWhinnie, Campbell Avenue, all of the first shift, and N. A. Plus, 49 and Thomas J. Masterson, 101, second shift.

The toolmakers will meet again at 7:30 Wednesday night, June 30, to discuss their plans.

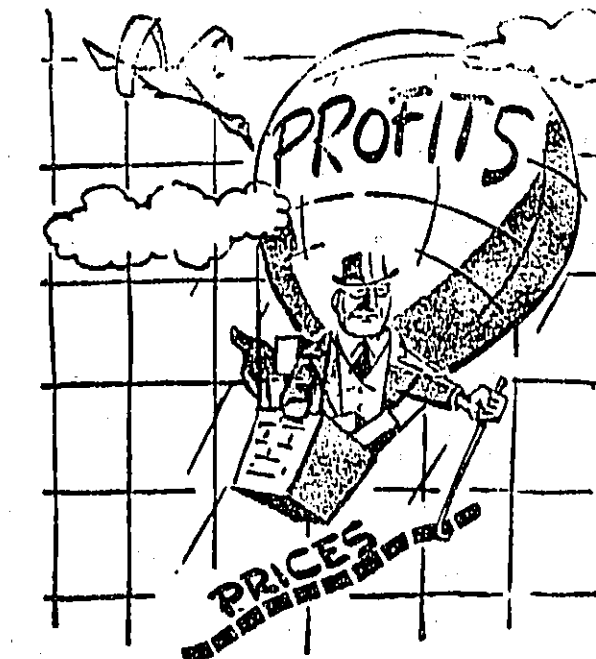
Varnish Makers Meet Tomorrow

Varnish makers on all shifts in Buildings 67, 71, 75 and 79 will meet tomorrow (Saturday) at 9:30 a.m. at the union hall, Erie Blvd. and Liberty St., to discuss department problems.

Prompt grievance action by Shop Steward Chris Pierone and Board Member Joseph Mangino last week caused the cancellation of a temporary lay-off in the varnish plant. The men had been told to go on "rotation" because of lack of work. Pierone and Mangino pointed out to supervision that the department had been hiring men for summer work. The men who had been sent home were called back in and work was found for them.

301 Radio Program

The Local 301 broadcast is at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday over WSNY.



PROFITS PULL PRICES HIGH— JOIN UE SO YOU CAN BUY—

GE Leads Field In Raising Prices

Once again GE is first to raise prices — after being about last in the electrical industry to raise wages.

Before UE locals had even finished ratifying the 1948 contract, GE announced June 17 price increases of five to 15 per cent on many consumer and industrial products. President Charles E. Wilson blamed the price boosts on increases in wages, freight rates and materials. He indicated that still more price raises may be in the offing, by saying that the increases "in no way provide for still higher costs which may result from wage demands upon suppliers."

Like the rest of Big Business, GE keeps spreading the propaganda that high prices are caused by wage increases. It's a handy invention to help them roll up even greater profits.

No Price Increase Necessary

UE pointed out during contract negotiations that on the basis of GE operations for the last quarter of 1947 GE could give a flat raise of 15 cents an hour and still have a net profit (profit after taxes) of \$75,000,000 for 1948. And the first quarter of 1948 showed a net profit 42 per cent above the first quarter of 1947, even after the so-called \$50,000,000 price reduction in January.

GE could make a general price cut now and still retain huge profits. Instead, President Wilson speaks of "reluctantly" having to wipe out some of the widely bally-

(Continued on page 2)

Plans Are Nearly Complete For Finest 301 Field Day

The Field Day program July 10 at Columbian Park Dunnsville Rd., will be crammed with fun and excitement from 10 a.m. to midnight. The Activities Committee's plans include all sorts of prizes, games, wrestling, boxing dancing, music, skits, movies, pony rides and other entertainment for children and refreshments.

Grievance Session Over Miss Monroe

The Local 301 grievance committee last week held an extended discussion with the company committee over the numerous complaints that Miss E. E. Monroe of Building 1 had an offensive attitude toward workers hired or transferred through her office.

The committee pointed out specific instances in which Miss Monroe had been arrogant toward women workers or had threatened them with loss of service if they did not accept jobs they considered undesirable. Assisting the grievance committee were Board Members Mary McCartin, Dewey Brashers, Willard Kuschel, Anthony Esposito, and Shop Stewards Virginia Murphy, Bldg. 5; Antoinette Daly, 69; and William Gleason, 69. They cited many instances of unfair treatment of women transferred for lack of work.

Charles G. Marey, personnel director, contended Miss Monroe was doing her best in a difficult position, and said he thought the union committee was "riding" her. Though the committee pointed out that there had been literally hundreds of complaints about the matter in the last two years, Marey thought the complaints were exaggerated. He said he would talk to Miss Monroe again.

301 Team Wins

By defeating the White Sox 15 to 9 Tuesday night, the 301 Girls' Softball Team has tied with two other teams for first place in the City League. The 301 team can still use some more players, the girls report. They are planning to play Field Day, July 10.

Gaeth Broadcast

The Arthur Gaeth radio program, sponsored by the national UE, is at 10 p.m. every Monday over WOKO, Albany, and WSNY, Schenectady.

Biggest event of the day will be the awarding of the 1948 Studebaker now on exhibition in State St. You can win the car whether you are at Field Day or not.

Jennie Tescione, Bldg. 81, still leads the race for Field Day queen with 9,000 votes, through ticket sales credited to her. Grace Burns, Bldg. 60, has 6,350, and Antoinette Restina, Bldg. 12, Alice Mattice, Bldg. 66, are tied for third place with 4,500 each. Other candidates are Thelma Willey, Bldg. 24, and Ann De Celli, Bldg. 53.

As usual there will be contests between boeci teams, with a prize of \$10 for the winning team and \$5 for the second. Boeci experts who want to sign up should notify the union office.

Events for children will include a pie-eating contest, a plain three-legged race, a three-legged race with eggs in spoons, a relay race, a sack race, a potato race, a pen and straw race, a wheelbarrow race, and pony rides.

Armand Carl's orchestra has been hired.

The cast of a skit which Mrs. Dorothy Perlin is directing started rehearsals this week. Those taking part are: Edward De Matteo, Bldg. 81; Salvatore Marietta, Bldg. 52; Dave Roykoff, son of Floyd Roykoff, Bld. 67; Sadie Iovinella, Bldg. 81; Gordon Belgrave, Bldg. 17, chairman of the Activities Committee; Rudy Radosevich of the union business office; Jean Schwartz, Bldg. 89, and Ann Koval, Bldg. 46.

Mrs. Perlin reports she still needs a narrator for the skit, — also an electrician and two stage hands.

Field Day tickets can be purchased from shop stewards and at the union office.



UE Membership Defeats Raiders

Efforts of several unions to raid UE membership were defeated by the workers recently at plants in Chicago, Los Angeles and White Plains.

At the International Register Company, Chicago, where UE has had a contract for a year, the International Association of Machinists petitioned for a Taft-Hartley election. The workers voted against the IAM 310 to 105. UE of course was not on the ballot but campaigned successfully for "No" votes. The company campaigned actively for IAM.

At the Chicago Transformer Company, a division of Essex Wire, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, staged a similar drive with company backing. IBEW was rejected in a Taft-Hartley election.

The Square D Company at Los Angeles tried to use two AFL unions to disrupt negotiations with UE. The workers cast overwhelming "No" votes against the IBEW in one Taft-Hartley election and against the Teamsters in another.

Employees of Lerick, Inc., at White Plains refused to be sidetracked from their UE negotiations by an attempted raid on the part of the AFL Jewelry Workers. They defeated the AFL union in a T-H election. UE then got them a general wage increase of seven cents an hour and an additional day's vacation with pay.

Worker Reinstated Through UE Action

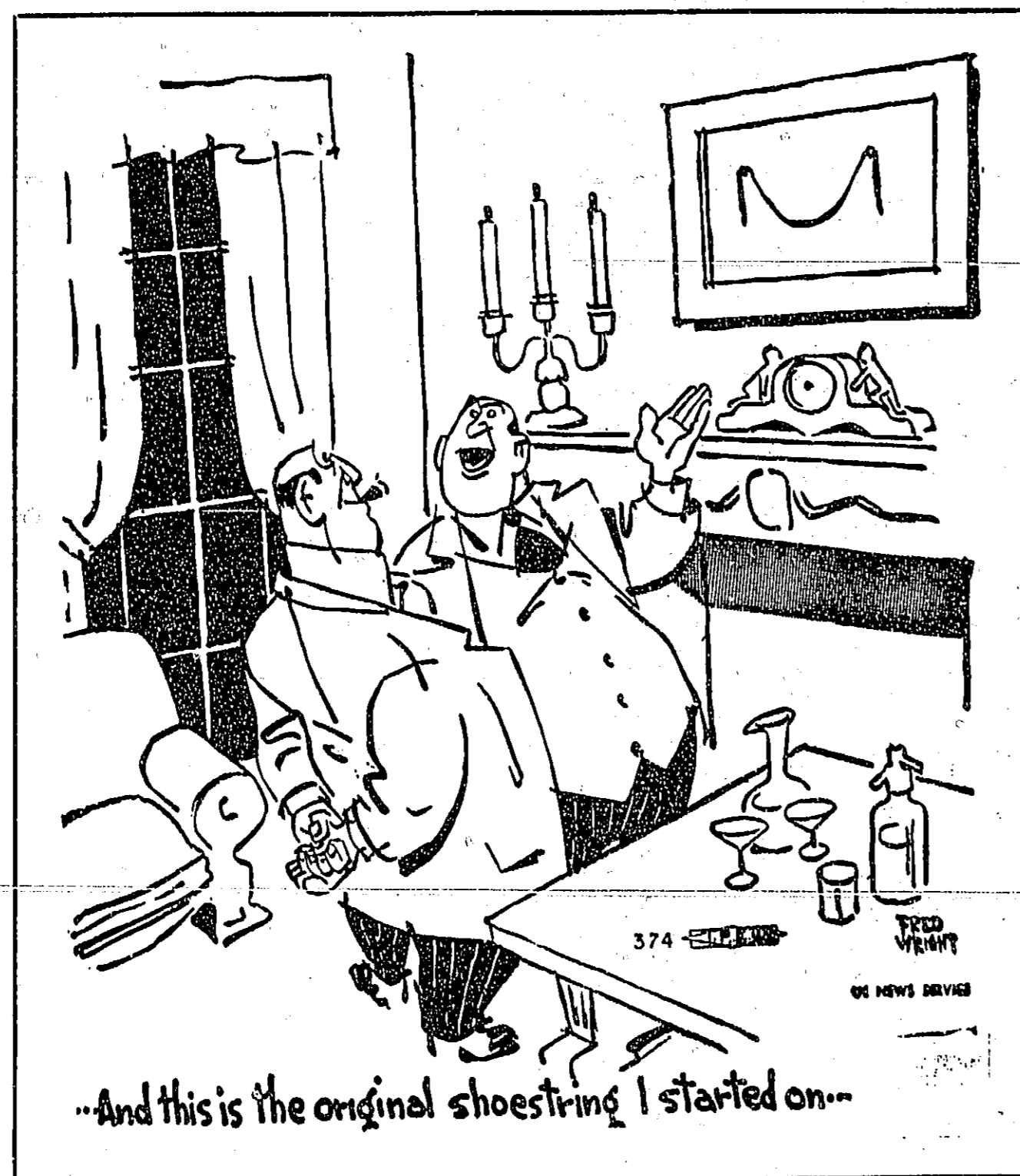
When you've been ill for nearly a year with tuberculosis and finally get well enough to work again, it's enough to cause a relapse to find out your boss won't give you your job back. That's what happened to Emil Skudera at Mory Machinery Co., New York City, until the union got on the job.

Fighting four months against the company's stand, UE Local 1227 took the grievance to arbitration and won reinstatement and \$717.23 in back pay for Skudera.

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GE Leads Field In Raising Prices

(Continued from page 1)

hooded price cuts made in January and April.

What about those much publicized price cuts anyway? GE claims they were a "sincere effort" to stop an inflationary trend. Was GE trying to stop inflation when it campaigned successfully to kill price control? When did it develop this sudden worry about high prices?

Maybe the price cuts were just a negotiating gag, to use as an argument against granting any pay increase this year?

At least one competitor was unkind enough to mention that GE had already jumped its prices so high that it was forced to reduce them to meet competition. Apparently the market looks better now, with the Marshall Plan rearmament business, and GE feels it's safe to operate on "the sky's the limit" theory again.

GE workers shouldn't let the company fool them into feeling responsible for these new price increases. GE would have boosted prices if it hadn't paid out a single penny in pay raises. The new price increases are no more connected with the 8 per cent pay offer than the high price of hamburger is. Remember that the big jump in food prices these last few months came before the 1948 round of pay raises.

Higher Rate Obtained For Bldg. 26 Worker

An employee in Bldg. 26 whose work is impregnating stators and rotors is now getting \$1.35 an hour through a grievance case pressed by Shop Steward Albert Davis. The work has a job rate of \$1.40 an hour.

The worker used to be classified as salvage rotors and stators at a job rate of \$1.22. His foreman told him that because of a change in work he would get \$1.26 as of May 20. But the union claimed the increase should date back further.

After a session in Bldg. 41, management agreed to give the increase of four cents retroactive to Jan. 1, and automatic progression to \$1.30.

Win Severance Pay

Eighty hours severance pay to all workers with five year service in case of layoff was won in the new UE Local 1227 contract at Bijur Lubricating, New York City. Other gains are a 7½-cent hourly wage increase, an added holiday with pay, and employer paid hospitalization plan.

Raise at Milwaukee

Wage increases ranging from nine to 14 cents an hour have been negotiated by UE for workers at Adjustable Fixture Company, Milwaukee, Wis.

\$1,288 Awarded For Finger Injury

Awards made to Local 301 members this month in Workmen's Compensation cases against GE, handled by the union's attorney, Marshall Perlin, include:

\$1,288 to Gerhard Staude, Bldg. 12, for 100 per cent loss of the use of his right index finger as the result of an accident Apr. 8. Half the finger was amputated.

\$592 to Vincenzo Riggi, Bldg. 273, for stiffness of a toe fractured last Oct. 11.

\$276 to his son, Michael Riggi, varnish maker, for facial disfigurement caused by acid burns.

\$500 to Charles Hoffer, Bldg. 29, for facial disfigurement caused by burns Jan. 13.

\$28 a week to Joseph Curcio, scrap-bailer in Bldg. 17, from Apr. 30 to May 11 for a back injury suffered last Dec. 1. Payment for reduced earnings from May 11 will be determined at a hearing in September.

\$28 a week to Charles Davis from last Nov. 11 for an occupational lung disease, incurred while working as a hydroblaster in the foundry, Bldg. 95. The payment is to continue.

\$28 a week to Thomas Donato of Bldg. 68 from May 10 to June 7 for a back injury suffered Mar. 6. The case is continued to the September calendar.

\$28 a week to Frank Guido, to continue for a month, during recovery from a hernia operation. He is a chipper.

Payment on reduced earnings to Marie Joiner, Bldg. 46, until an October hearing. The company is also to pay time lost since Mar. 22.

\$13.84 a week to Pauline Lachanski, Bldg. 23, from Feb. 23 to May 10. The case was adjourned for three months until a final award is made. She has an injured thumb.

\$28 a week to Walter Marciniak from last Nov. 20 to Dec. 8 and payment on reduced earnings afterwards. A paintshop worker, he developed a cough.

\$26.87 a week to John Pietzykowski, Bldg. 64, from May 11 to June 8 for a back injury suffered Jan. 1. Compensation is to be continued for three months.

Appeals Day

The 301 Appeals Committee meets at 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the union hall to hear the appeal of any member dissatisfied with the way a grievance has been handled. Second shift workers can be heard at 1 p.m.

Were You There?— 301 Meeting Which Ratified '48 Contract



Members of Local 301 voted overwhelmingly to ratify the 1948 contract settlement at this meeting the night of June 15 at Mont Pleasant High School.

Works News Hits Maritime Union

Hugh Crane, the Works News columnist, apparently wants to rival Westbrook Pegler in the number of unions he attacks. After a tirade recently against the railroad brotherhoods, he hit the National Maritime Union in the June 18 issue.

Crane sees a Red plot in the demand of the NMU for a decent pay raise and in its insistence on keeping the hiring hall, to prevent a return to the oldtime abuses and racketeering in hiring. He says "the American seaman's wage is already out of this world, even without any further increase." And he calls the hiring hall a violation of the Taft-Hartley Law.

According to Crane, a strike for wages or the hiring hall would be "bad for both the union and its members". But he says, "the Communist crowd in the union is hot for a strike" and that a strike "would crimp the Marshall plan."

An overwhelming majority of NMU members voted for a strike in spite of Crane's objections. The federal government promptly obtained injunctions in an effort to break the strike, just as it acted against the miners and railway workers.

Steamfitters Election Ordered by T-H Board

The Taft-Hartley Board has approved the request of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, AFL, for a collective bargaining election of journeymen steamfitters at the Schenectady GE plant.

UE opposed the election because the steamfitters, though members of a separate union, have been part of the 301 bargaining unit from the start.

Retired GE Employees Can't Live on Pensions

Forty-one dollars a month is not enough to live on. Thousands of former GE workers are finding that out.

These men and women are "retired" on GE pensions. The pensions provide a minimum of one dollar a month for every year of GE service.

The pensions range from \$20 a month to the \$5,500 a month GE's President will get when he retires. GE's Chairman of the Board will get \$3,750 a month. GE's Vice-President will get \$1,917 a month.

Most GE pensioners have to worry along on much less. A machinist with 30 years service will "retire" this year on a little less than \$41 a month.

Peterson Receives Letter From Bishop's Secretary

The Rev. J. Norbert Kelly, secretary to the Rt. Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, Catholic Bishop of Albany, has sent a letter to President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 acknowledging receipt of his letter protesting against an untrue statement about the union in the parish bulletin of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

"His Excellency directs me to tell you that he is investigating the matter," Father Kelly's letter stated.

President Peterson was directed by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board to send the protest about the bulletin to Bishop Gibbons.

Strike Vote Gets Raise

After workers voted overwhelmingly to take strike action, the Penn Machine Company at Johnstown, Pa., reached agreement with UE Local 619 for a 10½ cent raise effective May 1.

IAM Complains About Headaches and Expenses Of Filing Affidavits with Taft-Hartley Board

Filing affidavits with the Taft-Hartley Board has caused the International Association of Machinists "problems, hardships and expense."

The IAM, one of the first unions to file, submitted a statement to a Congressional Committee recently complaining about the results.

The union had to hire 23 additional representatives to assist its lodges in filing affidavits. Affidavits were required from 12,364 local officers and 609 district officers. Each of the 1,124 local and 87 district lodges had to file detailed financial statements.

When the filing was finally completed "after many hardships and set-backs we naturally assumed that our cases would be processed and collective bargaining could resume on an uninterrupted basis," the IAM stated.

However, in December the union learned it must REFILE for 1948.

Contracts Endangered

This "nuisance requirement" endangered 181 collective bargaining agreements, according to IAM, and "relations between management and the union became strained and unsettled."

"This situation also necessitated

that representatives assigned to their normal duties of organizing and assisting local lodges with their many problems had to concentrate their efforts on the filing requirements."

Need Big Legal Staff
The IAM has found it necessary to retain six regional attorneys, in addition to a general counsel and Washington legal representative, and to assign additional attorneys to 21 offices where the IAM maintains representatives before NLRB regional offices.

"It has also been necessary to add additional file clerks and office help to take care of the records made necessary by these filing requirements.

"This expense must ultimately be borne by the membership itself and therefore results in an increased cost for the right of representation under the law and a decrease in the actual service to the union's membership."

Sesqui-Centennial Ad

The history of Local 301 will be part of the record of Schenectady's Sesqui-Centennial Celebration. The Local 301 membership meeting last week approved a recommendation of the union's Executive Board to take a half-page advertisement in the special Sesqui-Centennial editions of both the Gazette and the Union-Star. The advertisement will be a statement of the union's aims and record. The cost will be \$100 in each paper.

13 Cent Raise

A general wage increase of 13 cents an hour has been won by UE Local 308 for Richardson Boat workers at North Tonawanda.

Profits Grab-Bag

The Wall Street Journal recently called the record-breaking profits of corporations in the first quarter of 1948 a "profits grab-bag." The electrical equipment industry increased its profits 49 percent in 1948 over 1947—as compared to a profit increase of all corporations of 16.7 percent.

General Electric's net profits for the first quarter of 1948 were \$26,389,000, compared with \$17,919,000 for the same period in 1947.