



HOLD EVERYTHING, HANK, THE SALES DEPARTMENT OBJECTS!

Executive Board To Hold Class Wednesday Evening

Members of the UE Local 301 executive board will have a special class dealing with their responsibilities and duties on Wednesday evening. The class will be taught by Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Decision to hold the class was made by the board last week. The session will follow the general outlines of the recently completed and highly successful series of shop stewards' classes conducted by the local.

Board members will discuss shop problems, and how they are to deal with them. Among the topics will be the relationship between members of the executive board and the shop stewards in their divisions, as well as between the board members and the rank and file in the shops.

A thorough discussion of grievance procedure and tactics will also be on tap, as will the question of shop meetings and their importance in bringing key issues to the men and women who make up our union.

Another key subject for study will be the responsibility of board members in carrying out union policy and in helping to shape that policy. Finally, the duties of executive board members in grievance negotiations at the works management level will be fully explained by the business agent.

It is expected that the board class will be of particular value to those persons serving their first

term on the local's executive body. The class will get under way at 7:30 p.m.

Jamestown UE On Air

UE locals in the Jamestown area will sponsor 10-minute weekly radio broadcasts over a local station beginning on Monday.

Local Picks Full Delegation For Women's Conference

UE Local 301's executive board last week approved the naming of 6 members to represent Schenectady at the union's big national women's conference in New York City on May 2 and 3.

Board Names Special Women's Committee

The executive board last week set up a special 11-member committee to discuss and plan actions on the problems of women workers in the shops. The committee consists of those board members who have large numbers of women working in their divisions.

Among the first jobs of the committee will be to draft proposals to be presented by the Local 301 delegation to the UE national women's conference in New York on May 2 and 3.

In addition, the group will act as a permanent body of the executive board to fight the "pay the women less" racket of GE management. Grievances rising out of the company's practice of paying women less than men doing similar jobs will be referred to the committee when it's felt that the case has an effect on other jobs. The committee will work closely with the assistant business agents handling these grievances.

Members of the committee approved by the executive board were:

Helen Quirini, 81; Sadie Iovinella, 81; Fred Pacelli, 46; George Agius, 24; Frank D'Amico, 40; Vincent Di Lorenzo, 69; Adam Griffith, 10C; Henry Kaminski, 76; Paul Landolfo, 285; Anthony Villano, Knolls; and Fay Hildreth, 285.

Approved on the delegation were: Frank D'Amico, 40; Ethel Furman, 10C; Sadie Iovinella, 81; Julia Mitchell, 40; Helen Quirini, 81; and Anna May Sullivan, 68.

This group will report to the conference on the efforts made in Schenectady to assure equal pay for equal work regardless of sex. It will also present the recommendations of the local to further the fight on the national level. These recommendations will be worked out by the delegates together with a special committee of the executive board.

Local 301 is one of the locals most responsible for the holding of the forthcoming national conference. It was 301 delegate Helen Quirini who offered the resolution setting up the conference at the UE convention in Cleveland last September.

The national conference actually grows out of a number of district conferences on the problem held throughout the country. The first of these was held last June in Syracuse. On hand were representatives from all locals in UE District 3, which groups together 35,000 workers in Upstate New York.

UE has been fighting for equal rates for women workers both through the local and national grievance machinery, and in negotiations with the companies. Significant breakthroughs have been scored in contracts with many firms, but up to now, the bigger corporations have held out for the discrimination on account of sex which nets them \$5-billion in extra profits every year.

Now It's 'Contempt' To Blast T-H Act at Hearing

It's now "contempt of congress" for a union leader to say what he thinks about the Taft-Hartley slave labor law. At least that's the view taken by the House labor committee in regard to recent testimony by President Joseph Beirne of the CIO communications workers.

Beirne testified before the committee looking into possible changes in T-H last Friday. He remarked that the law was "conceived in shame," a statement that most working people would probably consider mild. However, Rep. Carroll Kearns, Pennsylvania Republican, got really excited at this point. "I voted for Taft-Hartley and I'm not ashamed of it," the anti-labor congressman bragged.

After a brief recess, the committee met to discuss "disciplinary" action against Beirne. That usually means a contempt citation. Before acting, the committee gave Beirne a chance to withdraw his "conceived in shame" remark, which the CIO leader did. He was then told that any other remarks he had about Taft-Hartley would have to wait until after the Easter recess.

However, Kearns wasn't through blowing off steam for the day. He later got into a fracas on the Washington streets when he told his cab driver to chase and catch another taxi which had passed him.

When this maneuver was accomplished, Kearns jumped out of the cab and started threatening the bewildered cabbie. However, when the congressman began to pull rank, the driver told him off, retorting:

"You can't do anything to me. I'm just as good as you are. You're just a citizen."

At this point, Kearns forced the driver to go to the police chief's headquarters, where after a private conference between the chief and the congressman, it was decided to drop the whole matter.

It was not reported whether or not Kearns had threatened the taxi driver with a "contempt of congress" citation. And thus far, the Pennsylvania congressman has not come up with any Taft-Hartley law amendment to draft taxi drivers who pass him on the roads.

GE Is NOT Bargaining in Good Faith!

GE's so-called offer of a 1.79% wage increase is at best an arrogant proposal of a miserable few pennies by a corporation which counts its profits in the hundreds of millions of dollars. As such, the answer of Schenectady UE members was almost unanimous in rejecting it.

However, the company's method of making the proposal was even worse than the proposal itself. This method could leave GE employees with only one impression—that the management of General Electric is not interested in bargaining in good faith with the unions representing its workers.

The GE proposal was that if the unions accept the offer, they would have to give up the right to negotiate for wages this year, even though the full contract will be open for bargaining in the fall. This attempt to set down the terms under which a union is to accept a so-called wage offer is not collective bargaining. It is out-and-out dictation.

There can be no doubt that this company arrogance stems from the knowledge that GE workers are divided among 80 unions. GE apparently believes that the united fight which is needed to knock it off its profit perch is not possible now. However there are increasing signs that the workers of all unions may be planning a surprise for the company in this respect.

GE's full arrogance can best be understood by looking at some figures. Since January, 1950, workers in the chain have lost between 15c and 20c an hour in real wages as a result of

mounting living costs. Company profits have soared in this same period. In 1952, its profits before taxes were \$352½-million. The net gain figure after taxes was \$151-million, the 2nd highest in company history.

By taking just \$62½-million of this huge profit bag, the company could grant every employee a 15c hourly pay boost, and still have plenty left over.

Even the picayune company offer of 1.79% could offer a basis for bargaining on certain issues if the proposal had been made in good faith. The average wage increase on this offer would be 3¼c an hour. Four-tenths of one cent of this would pay all GE workers for one of the 2 Saturday holidays in 1953. There are 6 Saturday holidays in the next 10 years so that 2.4c could clean up this situation for that length of time.

Take as another example the question of pay differentials and discrimination against day workers, particularly women and craftsmen. Just about one penny of the 3¼c would provide for the raising of all lower rates to the \$1.50 common labor level. Six-tenths of a cent would provide all skilled workers with an additional 6c an hour. All of these figures are for the entire GE chain.

However, instead of taking this approach to the current negotiations, GE takes its few pennies, ties them up with impossible strings and says to the unions, "Take it our way or lump it!"

This is not collective bargaining!

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

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CONFERENCE DELEGATES. Pictured above is the Local 301 delegation slated to go to UE national women's conference in New York, May 2 and 3. Members are Anna May Sullivan, 68; Helen Quirini, 81; Frank D'Amico, 40; Ethel Furman, 10C; Sadie Iovinella, 81; and Julia Mitchell, 40.

UE Local 301 Wires Support to Cincy Strikers

President James Cognetta this week wired the leaders of 2 striking unions at GE's Evendale plant near Cincinnati to pledge full moral and financial support of UE Local 301 for the walkout.

Cognetta's telegrams went to William Reising, President of Lodge 912 of the AFL machinists,

which represents skilled workers at the jet plant, and George Jent, President of the CIO autoworkers Local 647. This union represents most factory workers. The wires to the 2 unions read:

"On behalf of the 20,000 GE factory workers in Schenectady, N. Y., members of UE Local 301, we ex-

tend to you our moral and financial support in your fight to win your just demands from the company. We are in the process of wage negotiations also. The present offer has been turned down by our members. The company is taking full advantage of the lack of united

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TUNE IN— UE Local 301's FDR Memorial Television Broadcast — Sunday Morning 10:30 - 11:00 — WRGB-TV

is being contemplated as a follow up to a meeting of the negotiations committee in New York. Such actions would be coordinated on a nation-wide scale.

A mood of grim anger prevailed at the stewards' meeting. Speaker after speaker denounced the company position and reported that the men and women in their groups were ready to fight for union demands. These demands include a substantial wage increase, payment for 2 Saturday holidays in 1953, elimination of geographical differentials and special pay boosts for day workers, including both women and skilled craftsmen.

The display of militancy was heightened by the shop reports which indicated that the company was refusing to bargain in good faith on many grievances. Apparently works management and supervision was taking its cue from

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Aim of Goldwater-Rhodes Bill Is Outlawing of Unions

A dream, long-cherished by L. R. Boulware and other bosses, of having the legal means to outlaw all unions which refuse to betray their members to the corporations would become a reality if the Goldwater-Rhodes bill, now before congress, should be enacted.

Cincinnati

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action on the part of all GE workers. Let us know what we can do to help. Send us full details of strike issues."

As the telegram pointed out, the Evendale strike, involving about 5,600 workers, will have an important bearing on the fate of our reopening negotiations. This strike, combined with the lockout of IUE-CIO members in the Syracuse GE plant, offers ample evidence that GE is taking advantage of the lack of unity among the workers, and seeking to break the power of all unions.

UE is making every effort to bring all workers in the GE chain together on a program of united action which would cut across union lines and force the company to come face-to-face with the full strength of its employees for the first time since the split in 1949.

Thus far the UE efforts have been very well received by rank-and-file members everywhere, and in the case of at least one big IUE-CIO union, Local 1581 which represents Cheektowaga Westinghouse workers, this pressure has forced a united action stand by the leadership.

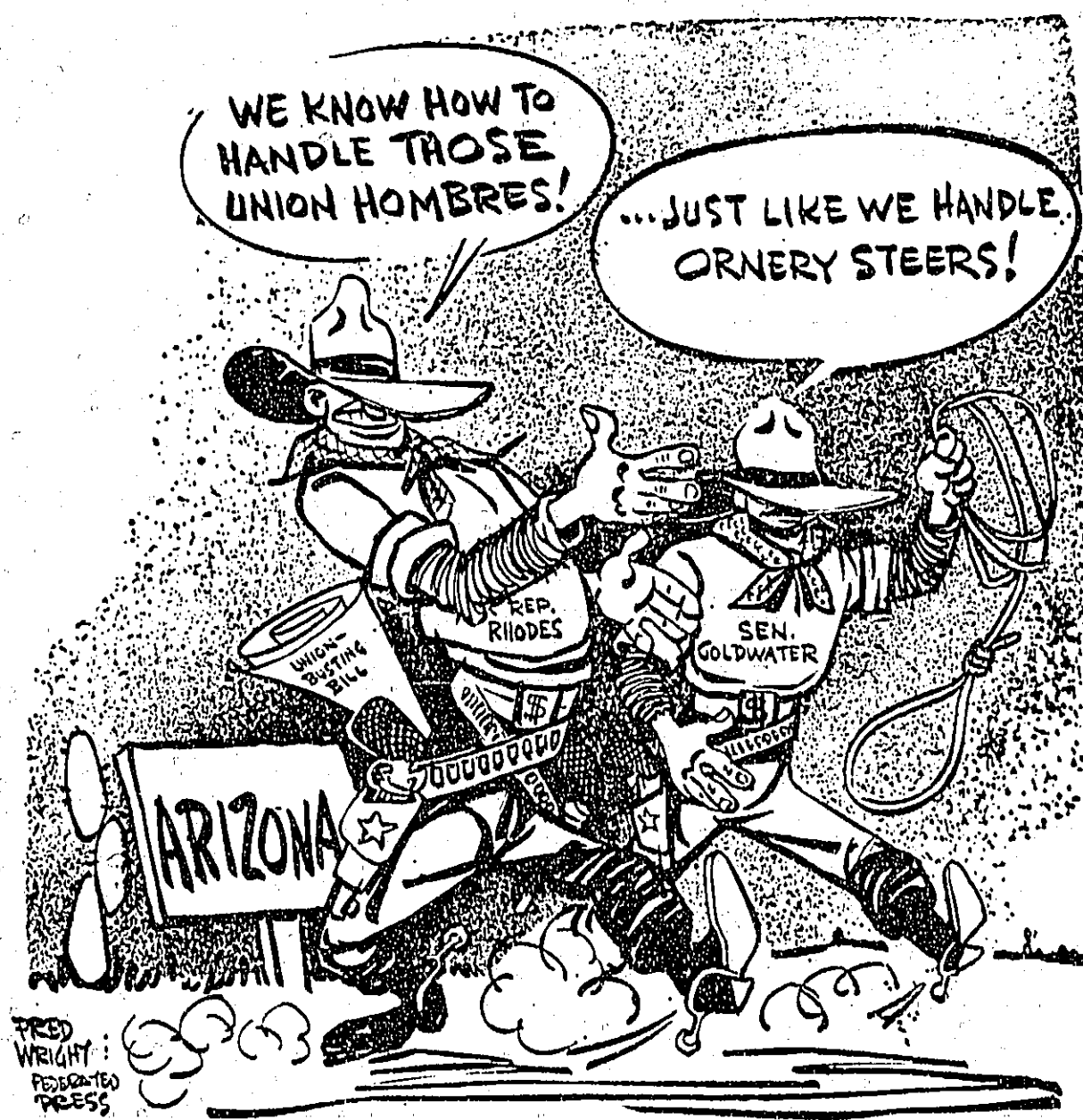
This vicious measure is designed to give tight control over all of organized labor to its worst enemies by handing the notorious McCarran Subversive Activities Control Board the power to outlaw any union. As in the case of all union-smashing legislation, the Goldwater-Rhodes measure masquerades as a bill to curb "communist influence" in the labor movement.

It is significant that the proposal is to give the deciding word to the McCarran Board. This outfit has already established the rule that if any organization's position on any single issue is the same as that of the Communist Party, then that organization can be considered as "communist-dominated."

Thus, for example, any union which advocated repeal of Taft-Hartley would be in danger since the Communist Party also advocates repeal of Taft-Hartley.

Full recognition of the danger of the bill was shown by Glen Slaughter, AFL legislative research director, who declared:

"No bill in recent years has so closely resembled the thought control so characteristic of totalitarian regimes."



307 Wins 12c and 2 Holidays

With a strike deadline only a few minutes away, management of the Dahlstrom Co. in Jamestown, N. Y. agreed last week to grant demands of 600 UE members for a substantial wage increase and for payment of 2 Saturday holidays in 1953.

In all the workers won a 12c hourly package, including insurance improvements and other fringe benefits. Until the last minute, the company's best offer

had been about 5c. This had been rejected by the workers, members of UE Local 307, in a strike ballot which had resulted in a vote of 311 to 26 for a walkout.

Assisting the Dahlstrom workers in the negotiations were two members of the UE staff, Field Organizer Ed Landy and International Representative Mike Jimenez, and District 3 President Lewis King.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

Bldg. 11: An agreement was made by Foreman Loucks with Charles Wituszynski and Frank Phillips that the 2 operators would be paid average earnings on a rush job. When the job was completed the foreman was willing to pay for only 1 3/4 hours, although the job took 3 1/2 hours to complete. The union demands that the company live up to its agreement with these 2 men and pay average earnings for the full time.

Winder group reached an agreement with Foreman Loucks that 2 workers, Jose Acevedo and Horace Endries, would be assigned to do all repair work on burnouts. On 3/23, 2nd shift foreman pulled 2 other winders off their piece work jobs to do repair work. The union demands that the company live up to its agreement and utilize only Acevedo and Endries on repair jobs.

Bldg. 18: A rotor flange job has been cut from standard price of \$3.04 to standard of 98c, and a drilling operation from \$1.45 to 60c. In neither case was there any change in method. These prices have been slashed in violation of contract article VI-5d, and the union demands restoration of original prices.

B production followers' group is performing A work. Therefore, the union demands they be given A classification.

Bldg. 40: Louis Henion is classified as a B crane follower, but is doing strictly A work. The union demands that he be reclassified to A.

Bldg. 49: William Lambert and Richard Louer are classified as B inspectors and are performing A inspection work. The union demands they be reclassified with proper rate adjustment.

Group is classified as wiremen on gas turbine cables with an hourly rate of \$1.85. When their duties are compared with those on similar jobs throughout the plant, it becomes obvious that they should be paid a higher rate. The union demands a proper rate increase.

Bldg. 53: The standard price on a spot weld nut job was cut without change in method. This is a violation of contract article VI-5d. In addition, the foreman refused a written answer to the grievance check in violation of article XV-1a-2. The union demands that management restore the improper cut and advise the foreman to

abide by contractual grievance procedure.

Bldg. 59: For reasons of health, Josephine Switopcha finds it difficult to do her job which requires work on more than one floor. The union demands that she be given the transfer she has requested.

Bldg. 60: Foreman Crabbe is continually harassing and pushing group of helpers although these workers can only follow instructions of mechanics under whose direction they work. The union demands that this totally uncalled for abuse be halted.

Men in linensmith shop protest unsafe conditions in grinding area. They demand installation of cur-

tain to protect workers and replacement of grinders' stands.

Group of 3rd shift painters protest failure of their foreman to act in proper supervisory capacity. The 2nd shift foreman is assigning their work, resulting in a confusing and difficult situation. The union demands that management correct this practice.

Bldg. 69: Florence Johnson is classified as a cleaner with a rate of \$1.37 1/2 an hour. Her duties merit the common labor rate of \$1.60. The union demands she be given the increase.

There is a lack of work situation on size 3 switch assembly and wire job, and piece work operator Virginia Masianka is suffering a loss of earnings. The union demands that adequate work be provided.

Charlotte Passikoff has worked satisfactorily on a test job for 6 months. Immediately following her application for union membership, Foreman Jones began a campaign of coercion against her, and has issued completely unjustified bad progress reports on her work. The union demands that this discrimination, which blatantly violates contract article IV be stopped, and that the improper progress reports be destroyed.

Bldg. 73: Group in 8th sheet metal group under Foreman Jordan is not having its overtime distributed equally. The union demands equal distribution of all overtime in accordance with contract article V-9.

Draft NY Women's Conference Plans

Two important union groups worked together this week to draw up Local 301's program for presentation to the UE national women's conference on May 2 and 3.

These groups were the special committee on women's problems established by the executive board, and the 6-member delegation to the conference selected by the local. The proposals they draft will be presented to the membership for approval at the April 20 meeting.

The women's conference has been called in order to launch an all-out campaign to end pay discrimination on account of sex. Such a campaign was decided on by the 1952 UE national convention in Cleveland.

UE Local 301 has a good deal of the responsibility for organization of this conference. Helen Quirini, who was a member of the Schenectady delegation to the union convention, offered the original resolution to hold the women's gathering.

Delegates will attend the conference from UE locals throughout the country. Approximately 35% of the union membership is made up of women. However, the meeting will have an important bearing on the economic well-being of all members since the companies use low women's rates to cut wages and prices on men's jobs.

Members of the 301 delegation are Frank D'Amico, 40; Ethel Furman, 10C; Sadie Iovinella, 81; Julia Mitchell, 40; Helen Quirini, 81; and Anna May Sullivan, 68.

Delay Board Class

A special class for members of the UE Local 301 executive board, originally scheduled for this past Wednesday, was postponed one week. The postponement was made necessary because Business Agent Leo Jandreau had to go to New York for a meeting of the UE-GE negotiating committee.

The new date for the class is Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. Jandreau will supervise the session.

301 Pledges Fight To Win Proper Rates for Welders

UE Local 301 this week pledged to continue its fight for proper classification of the nearly 500 welders in GE's Schenectady works despite a company refusal to bargain in good faith and to live up to accepted practices.

The union made this pledge as it discontinued negotiations on the welders' case in New York after management's refusal to make any

concessions. Business Agent Leo Jandreau charged that GE's position in the welders' situation was part and parcel of the company attitude in contract reopening negotiations. He said that the Schenectady workers would have an answer to this company position on all negotiations fronts.

Crux of the welders' case is the fact that piece workers have not been given A.E.R.'s 3 steps above the comparable day work rates. The 3-step differential is a practice long accepted by both the union and the company.

Welders in Schenectady now have day work rates ranging from \$1.91 to \$2.09 and piece work A.E.R.'s of \$1.91 to \$2.03. The \$1.91 rates are for arc welders, the \$1.97's are for arc and gas combination welders, the \$2.03 for special welders and the \$2.09 for special application welders.

Piece work welders in Schenectady have average earnings of \$2.70 an hour. In its case, the union made it clear that it was not disputing prices or average earnings. However, UE demanded that management live up to accepted practice on A.E.R.'s. Failure to do so was based on a company desire to have a wedge for cutting prices on new jobs, the union charged.

Management spokesmen admitted that the 3-step differential was accepted practice but refused to apply it to the welders. This was a clear indication of the lack of good faith on the part of GE.

Jandreau also demanded a number of upgrades for day workers because of their job duties.

In all there are 273 day work welders in the Schenectady works. The largest number of them, 173, have rates of \$2.03 an hour. Another 49 are at \$1.91; 26 are at \$2.09 and 25 at \$1.97. The average hourly wage for these workers is \$1.986.

There are 190 piece work welders in the plant.

12,000 Workers Swell Ranks Of Union in 3-Month Period

Close to 12,000 workers joined UE in the 3-month period between the end of the last national convention and the end of January, an organizational report by the union's national office revealed this week.

Many of the 11,953 workers who came into the union were in 7 newly-organized shops from New York to California. The most important victory was the landslide return of GE office workers in Erie, Pa. These workers, disgusted with 2 years of IUE-CIO misrepresentation, voted 738 to 150 to return to UE and to join with 8,000 Erie factory employees.

Another key victory saw UE break the most important company union stronghold in Ontario and win bargaining rights for 750 workers at the Canadian North American Cyanamid Co. in Niagara Falls. Additional UE victories were scored in the newly-organized plants of Able Sheet and Metal Products, Los Angeles; Raleigh Records, New York; Bellaire Electronic, New York; Acker Drill, Scranton; and Silco Manufacturing, Minneapolis.

UE also crushed a half-dozen raids during the period.

Brisk Buying Marks First Dance Tax Sale

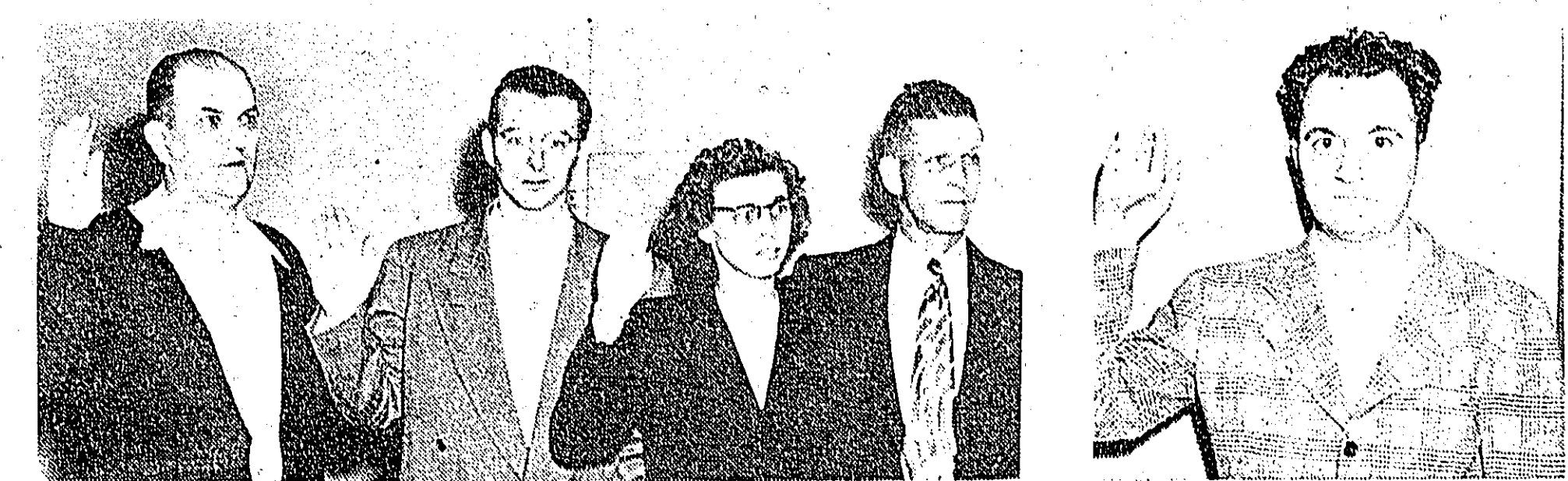
Sale of tickets for the big 20th anniversary dance at UE Local 301 hall on April 25 started off at a merry clip this week. Most shop stewards received their duets on Monday.

Because of the limited capacity of the hall, those who do not buy their admission tabs early are likely to be shut out. The tickets are selling at \$1 each, with the price including refreshments.

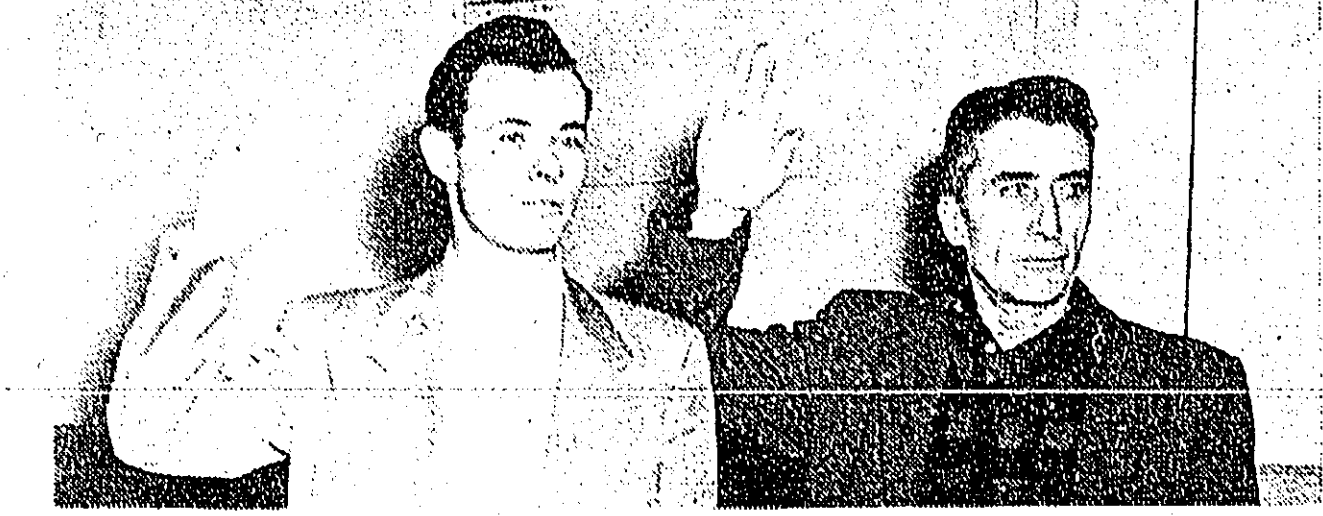
Stewards

(Continued from page 1)
the big bosses in New York.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau emphasized that this situation would continue until the workers forced the company to change its attitude from the top on down. UE is determined to do just that.



NEW STEWARDS. Pictured here are 7 Local 301 members who took the oath of office as shop stewards at the Monday meeting of committee men and women. Five of the 7 are 1st and 3rd shift workers who were sworn in at the evening session. They are shown above—Thomas G. Brzoza, Building 72; Lawrence Dugas, 105; Bonnetta Boyden, Campbell Ave.; Lester Wilcox, 84; and Stephen Minnillo, 46 (separate picture). The picture on the right is of the 2nd shift stewards who were sworn in. They are Walter Bikowitz, 16, and Warren Kilmer, 84.



UE Wins Buffalo Shop

UE chalked up an overwhelming victory Tuesday when workers at Marvin Wave Clip Co. shop in Buffalo voted 27 to 0 to designate the union as their bargaining agent.

The unanimous ballot was particularly impressive since management of the company had waged a strong campaign for a "no union" vote.

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