



Wausau, Wis.—Expressions of support from the entire area labor movement poured into the offices of UE Local 1113 as the union marked the 1st anniversary of the Marathon Electric lockout, which has forced 750 workers onto the picket lines. These expressions of backing, many of them strengthened by financial contributions, came from the Wisconsin Valley CIO council, the AFL unions in and around Wausau and from many independent unions. Typical was the statement of Dorothy Batten, a local president of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Her message declared, "all of the workers . . . are solidly behind you. We feel that you are conducting a fight, not only for Marathon Electric workers, but for every worker in Wausau . . . Your union will not be destroyed and you will not lose this fight."

Cleveland—A general wage increase and increased retirement benefits to "assist pensioners to meet higher living costs" were listed among the demands to be made on behalf of 200,000 members by the CIO rubber workers. These demands will be presented in forthcoming reopening talks. Most of the rubber workers are under 5-year contracts.

Erie, Pa.—UE Local 506 President Johnny Nelson recently told the Erie City Council that the big CIO union opposes proposals to lift local rent controls. Nelson condemned the plans as part of the "big squeeze being applied to Erie rent payers by big landlords."

New Bedford, Mass.—The CIO textile workers last week retained bargaining rights for 6,000 cotton mill workers by crushing the AFL textile workers in a NLRB election. The vote was 3,651 for the CIO, 664 for the AFL and 192 for no union.

Toronto—The UE Canadian GE policy committee acted to apply for conciliation in its current contract negotiations with the company. The move was made after the committee decided that GE negotiators have no intention of bargaining in good faith with the union. The current negotiations center around pension and insurance issues.

Salem, Oregon—AFL, CIO and independent unions met this week to work out a program of joint action against anti-labor legislation now pending in the Oregon legislature. Corporation-sponsored bills would virtually outlaw the operations of all unions in the state.



ROY SCHAFFER. His appointment as a new assistant business agent was approved by the Membership Monday.

Members OK Schaffer, Pita And Sheehan as 301 Aides

UE Local 301's membership Monday approved the appointment of Roy Schaffer, Fred Sheehan and Serafin Pita as assistant business agents for 1953. The action made it possible for the union to put into effect a new grievance setup under which the Schenectady works are to be divided into 3 sections, each under the jurisdiction of an assistant.

Schaffer, a turret lathe operator in Building 60, is the new addition to the local staff. Selection of the union's recording secretary for the job was based on the ability to handle union business he has demonstrated during 17 years as an active member of 301. Schaffer's background includes 6 years as a shop steward, 3 years as an executive board member and 2 as an officer of the local. He was 301 vice president last year.

The other assistants, Sheehan and Pita, have been with the union since July, 1951. All 3 assistants serve on leave-of-absence from the Schenectady works.

One of the purposes of the new division of jurisdiction is to strengthen the grievance machinery by permitting the assistants to become specialists on the problems of the sections which they service.

Another aim is to free Business Agent Leo Jandreau so that he can devote more of his time to legislative matters and other key tasks in carrying out the policies of Local 301.

The exact division of jurisdiction will be announced in next week's paper.

Push Women's Meeting Plans

With Monday's membership approval of the proposal to send a 6-person delegation to UE's national women's conference on record, Local 301's leadership this week got down to the job of making concrete plans to assure the greatest possible contribution by the Schenectady union to the gathering.

OK of the 6-member delegation was given by a unanimous vote. The approved resolution empowered President James Cognetta to select the representatives from a group of active unionists recommended by the executive board.

Local 301's delegation would have the job of telling UE members from all over the country of the progress made in the union's largest unit against corporation policy of paying women less than men for similar work.

Out of this report and the reports of other locals, the conference will get a complete picture of the situation faced by UE's more than 100,000 women members. They then will be able to make concrete plans for ending once and for all the "pay the women less" racket of the bosses.

This conference is being held in accordance with a resolution made by 301 Executive Board Member Helen Quirini at the last UE national convention in Cleveland. The women's gathering will take place in New York on May 2 and 3. Several hundred delegates are expected to attend.

Stewards' School Ends 1953 Sessions Tuesday

UE Local 301's 1953 stewards' school will come to an end Tuesday when committee men and women under Executive Board Members William Stewart and Anthony Villano gather at the union hall. Their class is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

This past week saw the last full schedule of classes completed, with stewards from most Turbine sections taking part in the discussions on grievance machinery and shop problems. Attendance at the sessions was good, as it has been throughout the 4-week school term.

Classes got under way at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday when Turbine 2nd shift stewards had their gathering. On Wednesday night, it was the turn of stewards under Bill Linka and Anders Christensen. Rounding out the week were classes yesterday in which the shop representatives of Turbine 3rd shift Board Member Larry Gebro came down to the union hall.

The entire stewards' school has been under the supervision of Business Agent Leo Jandreau, helped by his assistants, Serafin Pita and Fred Sheehan.

Dooley Understood L. R. Boulware

Tuesday was St. Patrick's Day, a time for the wearin' of the green and the dustin' off of the old blarney stone. But for working men and women, it was also a time to think about the great contributions made to organized labor by many men and women of Irish origin and extraction.

One of these contributors was Finley Peter Dunne, a great humorist who created the immortal Mr. Dooley, a working man from hip to toe. Mr. Dooley expressed his views on the world around him while sipping a few beers with his friend, Mr. Hennessy, and some of those views, set down in print 50 years ago, would be tough to improve on today. Take, for example, what Mr. Dooley had to say on the subject of the open shop:

"What is th' open shop? Sure, 'tis where they kape the doors open to accommodate th' constant stream av tin canin' in t' take jobs cheaper than th' tin what has th' jobs. 'Tis like this, Hennessy: Suppose wan av these freeborn citizens is workin' in an open shop fr' th' princely wages av wan large iron dollar a day av tin hour.

"Along comes another son av gun an' he sez 't' th' boss, 'O! think O! could hand th' job nicely fr' 90 cints."

"'Sure,' sez th' boss, an' 't' wan dollar man gits out into th' crool wuruld t' exercise his inalienable right as a freeborn American citizen an' scab on some poor divil.

"'An' so it goes on, Hennessy. An' who gits th' benefit? True, it saves th' boss money but he don't care no more fr' money thin he does fr' his right eye.

"'It's all principle wid him. He hates t' see min robbed av their independence regardless av anything else."

"'But,' said Mr. Hennessy, 'these open-shop min ye menshun say th' are fr' unions iv properly conducted."

"'Sure,' said Mr. Dooley, 'iv properly conducted, an' there we are—An' how would they have thin conducted? No strikes, no rules, no contracts, no scales, hardly iny wages, an' dam few members."

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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Members Nix GE Proposal—Demand Real Offer on Wages, Holidays and Inequities

Angered by GE management's failure to either offer a reasonable wage increase or to meet any union demands on inequities, UE Local 301 members voted overwhelmingly to turn down company proposals in shop meetings held throughout the Schenectady works on Wednesday.

Most UE Pacts Assure Saturday Holiday Pay

GE's stand that it will not pay for Saturday holidays places it behind the majority of firms which have contracts with UE and which do pay for Saturday holidays.

This was revealed by the union's national office which released a breakdown of holiday provisions in pacts with major corporations and smaller companies. The breakdown showed that 60% of the UE contracts which provide for 7 or more paid holidays also provide for full payment for Saturday holidays. This represented a majority of all pacts signed by the union.

Among the corporations from which UE has won payment of Saturday holidays are Westinghouse, Sylvania, Decca Records and General Cable. All of these firms have national agreements with the union.

Some of the other companies which provide at least 7 paid holidays regardless of the day in the week on which they fall are Anaconda Wire and Cable, American Safety Razor, Capehart Farmworth, Columbia Records, Thomas Edison Co., Magnavox, Morse Twist Drill, Sonotone Corp., Tungsol Electric, Waldes-Kobinor, Wilcolator, and Westinghouse Airbrake.

These meetings were held by the executive board members after the board voted unanimously to recommend outright rejection of General Electric's arrogant "offer." This recommendation was made Monday in a resolution which pointed out that the company had failed to:

1. Make a reasonable wage offer.
2. Solve the problem of the 2 Saturday holidays which would be lost this year.
3. Provide anything to eliminate inequities in regard to day workers, including women and skilled craftsmen, or geographical differentials.

Instead the company suggested that the union accept one of 2 "zero or less" proposals. The first of these would provide a wage boost only if the old BLS consumer price index figure for March 15 is higher than that for Sept. 15, 1952. Since the index has already dropped from the Sept. mark, it is almost sure that acceptance of this gimmick would mean no wage increase at all.

As an alternative, the company offered the equivalent of a 1.79% wage increase (minimum 1.75c) provided UE give up its right to negotiate wages and other contract issues in the fall. This "increase" would be based on productivity and cost of living, with the actual boost being calculated as

the amount of money needed to bring wage levels 10.53% over those of March 15, 1951.

In short, GE management suggested that we give up the right to seek real contract and money improvements until March, 1954, in exchange for a couple of pennies now. In voting to recommend rejection of the offer, the 301 executive board endorsed a national union suggestion that the company take these few cents and apply them toward payments on the holidays and inequities. From that point, discussion of a genuine wage increase could begin. However, the union position stressed that under no circumstances could the giving up of fall negotiations be considered.

GE's attempt to hoodwink its employees into closing out on bargaining this year was undoubtedly based on the realization that with the wage freeze and all price controls ended, rising living costs and growing demands for united action by all unions would greatly strengthen the workers' bargaining position in the next few months.

UE negotiators will give the company the answer of the workers to its proposal at a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, March 31.



CONTRACT CONFAB. UE Local 301's executive board is pictured above as it met to study GE's contract proposals to the union on Monday. After going over the so-called offer, the board voted unanimously to recommend outright rejection to the union's membership.

Bus Strike Leader Faces Deportation

A clear demonstration of the use of the McCarran-Walter act as a strike-breaking weapon by the companies was given this week when the chairman of the negotiating committee of the CIO Transport Workers Union was picked up for deportation in the middle of negotiations to settle a walkout of Long Island bus drivers.

The victim, Canadian-born Gordon Barrager, is being held on Ellis Island without bail and without any specific charges against him. He was arrested Friday while in the midst of negotiations with the Bee Lines.

Company President Harry Carter is a close friend of Nassau County Republican leader, J. Russell Sprague. Sprague is a close friend of Attorney-General Brownell, who is in charge of administering the McCarran law.

Could Be!

Workers on the overload relay test line in Bldg. 69-2 are wondering if the harassment and attempts to force a speed-up on Charlotte Passikoff by Foreman Don Jones is connected with the fact that one of her first acts was to apply for UE Local 301 membership.

These workers joint out that Jones' threats are particularly out of line since Mrs. Passikoff's production is unusually high for a new worker.

Show Roosevelt Film

"The Roosevelt Story," a film depicting the life and accomplishments of the late President was slated to be shown to the executive board yesterday afternoon. The movie is being distributed by the UE national office in connection with the 8th anniversary of the death of FDR.

Ex-U. S. Aide Hits McCarran Measure as 'Sham and Fraud'

All people who believe in America were called on last Friday to fight for repeal of the McCarran-Walter immigration law. The appeal was made by former U. S. Solicitor-General Philip Perlman.

Union Classes End

UE Local 301's steward's school ended its 1953 session Tuesday evening when shop representatives under William Stewart and Anthony Villano had their gathering.

A report of the union office indicated that a large majority of the union's 630 stewards attended the classes which ran for more than 4 weeks. Contract enforcement, union policy and shop problems were discussed by the stewards and by Business Agent Leo Jandreau and his assistants.

Wins Silicosis Pay

GE's fight to deprive an Elmiria silicosis victim of workmen's compensation and disability insurance has ended with the company surrendering completely.

The company tried to prove that the disease had not been contracted on the job. However, UE Local 310 proved beyond any doubt that the silicosis, and a resulting tuberculosis condition, came from the victim's job. As a result, the worker, Anthony Sherant, will receive \$32 weekly compensation and a monthly disability pension of \$84.50. The compensation was made retroactive to June, 1951.

Tobey Hints McCarthy Too Much Even for GOP

Sen. Joseph McCarthy, the anti-labor witchhunter from Wisconsin, may have gone too far for even his Republican colleagues. This was strongly indicated by GOP Sen. Charles Tobey of New Hampshire, who characterized McCarthy as the "bad boy of the Senate" in a recent TV interview.

Tobey strongly condemned his fellow Republican, asserting, "if he were a man he would have demanded a full investigation of questions about his financial dealings raised by a Senate subcommittee."

That subcommittee report indicated that the Wisconsin red-baiter had used monies raised to help his "fight on communism" to speculate on the commodities market and to make a handsome profit.

have always worked to maintain an 8-hour output. She has been subjected to a vicious speedup, first being called on to produce 561 tubes per shift, and now being forced to meet an 800 quota. This operator is a day worker, and should not be asked to do incentive work. The brutal work load is affecting her health. The union demands an end to this speedup and to the unreasonable production loads and harassment of the woman.

Bldg. 273: E. Alberts requests management investigation of the possibility of transferring him to the 1st suitable opening.

Bldg. 285: Since 1947, George Russell has been classified as a non-working leader over 2 groups of machine repair and maintenance men. He was ill recently, and the groups were separated and put under the direction of a methods man. Russell has been ordered to work full time, but is denied all overtime. This is a clear case of discrimination and coercion involving a number of contract violations. The union demands restoration of Russell's previous status as a non-working leader.

R. Sommers is classified as a piece worker on bench assembly and is assigned to do all general repair work on the final assembly of solenoids. Therefore, he is being taken off his regular p.w. job to suit company convenience and should be properly compensated through payment of average earnings.

Recently, 2 women were sent home for lack of work by Foreman Lawrence. At the same time, the foreman utilized the services of a man for inspection on job 9005 C-1. The union contends that if there was no lack of work, and that the women should not have lost time. It demands that management correct this situation.

Airport: The union demands reclassification of Edwin Burchell to A aircraft mechanic. He is entitled to this rating because of his experience, ability and performance.

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.

employee. The union demands that she be given full service credit for her work in the cafeteria.

In the group under Foreman Mellon, crane followers and material handlers are being used for porters' jobs although they have plenty of work of their own. The union demands the assignment of a porter to this group in order to provide safe and clean working conditions.

Group under Foreman Tanski have repeatedly asked that the practice of blocking up the main aisle be stopped because it is a major safety hazard. The union demands that this dangerous practice be stopped immediately.

Bldg. 46: Alfred J. Cionek was asked by the foreman to do 2 jobs with much lower timing rates than the work he normally performs. One job was on the floor for 4 weeks, and the foreman ordered him to either do it or go home. The union demands that the operator be given an adjusted price so that he suffers no loss of earnings. It further demands an end to the practice of a foreman issuing threats to try and force an operator to do lower rated work.

Material movement under Foreman Link are doing work in the expeditor category. The union, therefore, demands they be reclassified from M material movement to C expeditors with proper rate adjustments.

Bldg. 52: The price for steel blasting large cooler frames has been \$2 for the past 5 years. Now, supervision has cut it to \$1.65 in violation of contract. The union demands restoration of \$2 price.

Bldg. 60: When a time study was taken on job 1281854 in January, the foreman agreed to pay a price adjustment totalling \$2.97 to the assemblers. He now refuses to abide by his agreement. The union demands immediate payment of the

adjustment.

Bldg. 66: On Saturday, March 7, 2 crane operators were working in west bay while only one was on duty in east bay. When the east bay man went off on his break, Robert Penman went over to the bay to work. This move was dictated by safety considerations, but supervision has seen fit to reprimand the operator. The union asks a full discussion of this to clarify the situation and avoid further disagreements.

Bldg. 69: When GE Athletic Association was dissolved in December (see Bldg. 40 above), Grace Piper, with 4 years of service in the cafeteria, was transferred to 69. Her foreman now insists that she be treated as a new employee. The union demands that this worker be given full service credit.

Bldg. 84: Leo F. Kelly and Leo S. Hanrahan have been classified as hand are welders for several years. However, they have been doing arc and gas welding under hazardous conditions. The union demands they be reclassified to special hand welders with retroactive rate adjustments.

Bldg. 269: Theresa Madejka is classified as a routine tester, \$1.41 job rate. She has been doing getter flashing, aging and stabilization jobs, on which 2 operators

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UE Made Some Albany Legislative Gains, But Corporations Balked Big Victories

With the 1953 New York State legislative session at an end, UE Local 301 was able this week to point to several important victories in helping to prevent a number of key anti-labor laws. However, the basically corporation-controlled character of the Albany senators

Schenectady workers.

However, the Ostrander amendment still is subject to a public referendum at the next election, and Governor Dewey, apparently acting on behalf of the private power interests, has indicated that he will seek to have it defeated then.

On the credit side was the failure of the corporations to jam through a payroll tax for Schenectady. For a time, this tax seemed to be a "sure thing." But UE and other labor organizations went into action, and by the end of the legislative session Sunday night, most state and city politicians were doing their best to give the impression that they had never even heard of the wage levy.

Similarly, the attempt to smother through a vicious set of laws to effectively outlaw political action by labor organizations was blocked by prompt union efforts. Local 301 spearheaded this fight by sending a delegation to the capitol to lobby against the company bills.

Also on the positive side of the picture was the passage of the Ostrander amendment which makes it impossible for private power companies to grab off public lands in the Adirondacks for their own profit. UE Local 301 took a major part in fighting for the amendment in order to protect the recreational facilities used by so many

Pick Some Women's Meeting Delegate's

UE Local 301's officers this week worked to complete plans to send a 6-member delegation to the union's national women's conference scheduled to be held in New York on May 2 and 3.

At the time that this week's EU News went to press, President James Cognetta had not yet completed the job of selecting the delegates from among the candidates proposed by the executive board. However, 4 places on the delegation were definitely filled by Helen Quirini, 81, Sadie Iovinella, 81, Ethel Furman, 10C and Frank D'Amico, 4D.

The Schenectady delegation will go to the conference at the Hotel McAlpin armed with full reports on the efforts made by Local 301 to combat GE's practice of paying women less than men doing the same work.

They will undoubtedly emphasize the importance of fighting for equal pay for equal work for both men and women workers. The union has learned from experience that when the company is able to keep women's pay down, it has a weapon with which to force the pay of men workers down to the same levels. This can be done simply by threatening to replace men, who seek to gain better pay or to hold decent rates, with women.

About 35% of UE's membership nationally are women. It is hoped that the May conference will produce a concrete program for fighting the "pay the women less" racket in the shops, through the grievance procedure and in local and national negotiations.

Local 301 adopted a new approach to legislative lobbying this year. It attempted to mobilize the support of union members who are leaders in local political affairs. On one delegation, Peter Pisano, 77, chairman of the Schenectady 9th ward Democratic club and Henry Burke, 273, Republican 9th ward supervisor, accompanied legislative sub-committee chairman William Stewart to Albany. Others to take active part in delegations were James De Massee, 49, and Frank D'Amico, 40.

Frame Union Head

President Abram Flaxer of the independent United Public Workers of America was convicted this week on frameup "contempt of congress charges."

Flaxer's conviction arose out of his refusal to provide the McCarran witchhunt committee with the names of all of the union's members, many of whom are government workers. For many years, organized labor has fought for the right to keep its membership rolls secret when such secrecy is necessary to prevent bosses from setting up blacklists.

Women's Group Set Up

UE Local 301's executive board voted Monday to establish a special committee to study problems of women workers in Schenectady. The committee will consist of board members who have large numbers of women in their divisions. An organizational meeting is planned in the near future.

Steel Profits High

Despite the long steel strike last year, U. S. Steel managed to eke out a bare living in 1953. Company profit reports issued this week indicated that the steel monopoly had a net gain of \$144-million during the year.



Bldg. 11: On job S.O. 223-3041 the price taken from a standard table was cut from \$31.15 to \$25.55 without notifying the operator or changing methods. This is a violation of contract article VI-5d. The union demands restoration of the \$31.15 price.

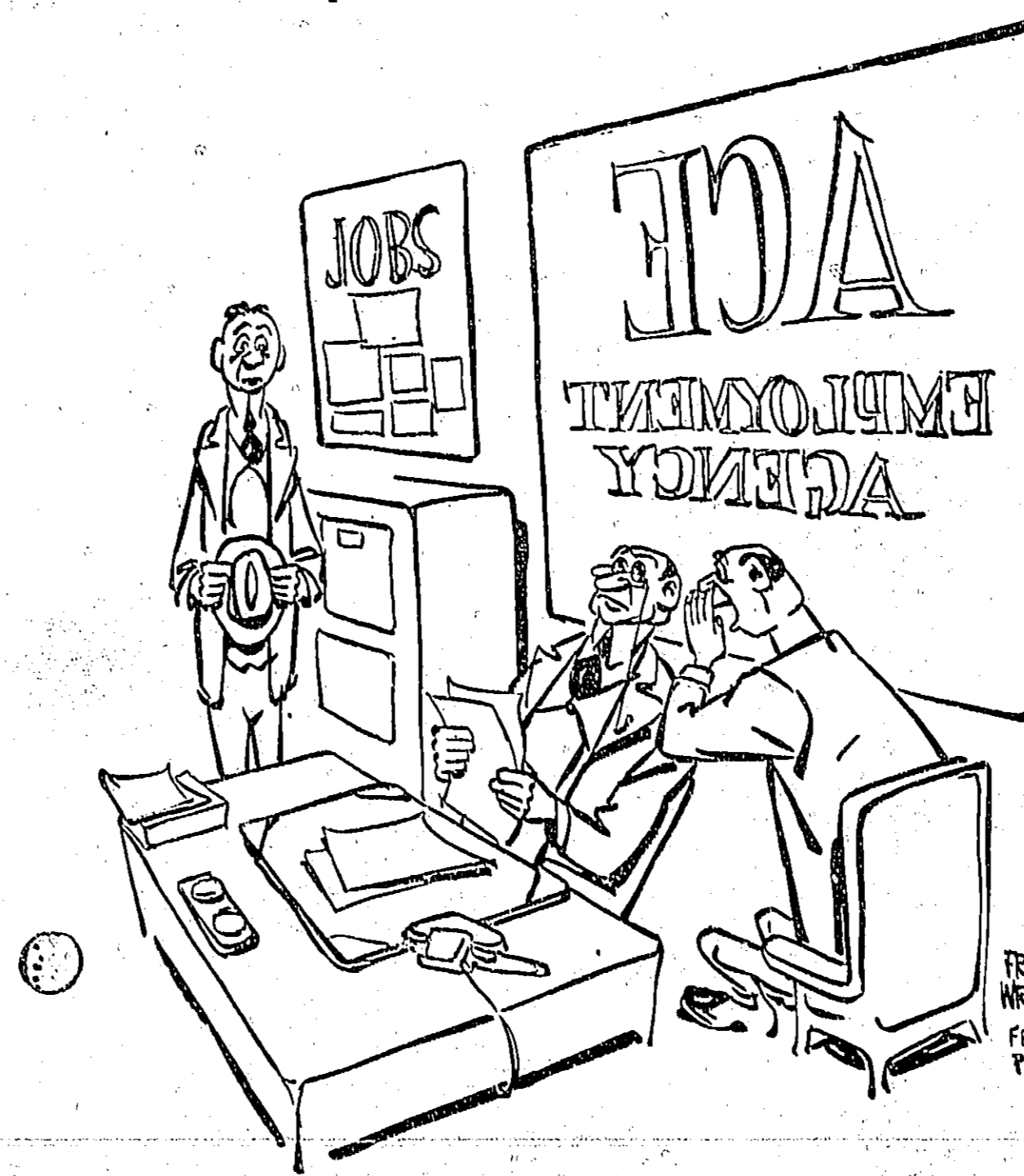
Bldg. 17: On Job 208B902, standard punching S.O. 251-1005, operation 1, blank hand feed, the price was established without obstruction on the machine. As the result of the installation of a new fixed guard, the operators are now obstructed and can not make their A.E.R. or maintain previous earnings with the same effort. In accordance with article VI-5d, the union demands an immediate revision of price.

Smoke and fumes in the hardening room under Foreman Forte and Erickson create a safety hazard for the entire group and for adjoining groups. The union demands that management correct this condition.

Bldg. 18: On Jobs S.O. 223, 2015 and 2016, motor assemblies under Foreman Franco feel that the rates being paid are too low on the generators being built when compared with rates on similar jobs in other buildings. The union demands a 2-step increase in the timing rate.

Bldg. 29: Edward Pangburn works on the straightening tape can job. He is not receiving his share of overtime. The union demands equal distribution of overtime in accordance with the contract.

Bldg. 40: Bernice Teal was employed in the cafeteria for 7 1/2 years. When the GE Athletic Association corporation, which had the cafeteria concession, was dissolved in December, and the cafeteria ownership was formally transferred to the company, she was assigned to a job in 40. Supervision is trying to take the position that this worker is a new



GIVE HIM OUR LOYALTY TEST...SEE IF HE'S WILLING TO WORK FOR 15 BUCKS A WEEK...