

## Union Demands GE Observe State Law

Although a state investigation has shown that GE is failing to comply with certain provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Law at the Schenectady plant, the company apparently had made no move to correct these conditions when this week's issue of EU News went to press.

The union, which originally called these irregularities to the state's attention, this week notified the Workmen's Compensation Board that the violations are continuing. The union's letter stated that unless GE complies with the law, Local 301 will ask the Board to withdraw the license of the GE Medical Bureau.

GE has failed to post adequate notices about the rights of workers, as required by law. The company has also failed to give workers a waiver to sign when they are treated at GE by a company doctor, or sent to a doctor selected by the company. Workers should be informed by the company of their right to choose their own doctors.

In a talk to the Stewards Council Tuesday, Michel Perlin, 301 attorney, stressed the importance of reporting promptly any injury or illness connected with work and filing a Workmen's Compensation claim. He also urged that workers go to their own doctors for treatment.

He asked the stewards to make sure that the groups they represent understand their rights under the Workmen's Compensation Law. Many stewards asked questions from the floor about accidents in their shops, or reported difficulties workers have had collecting compensation.

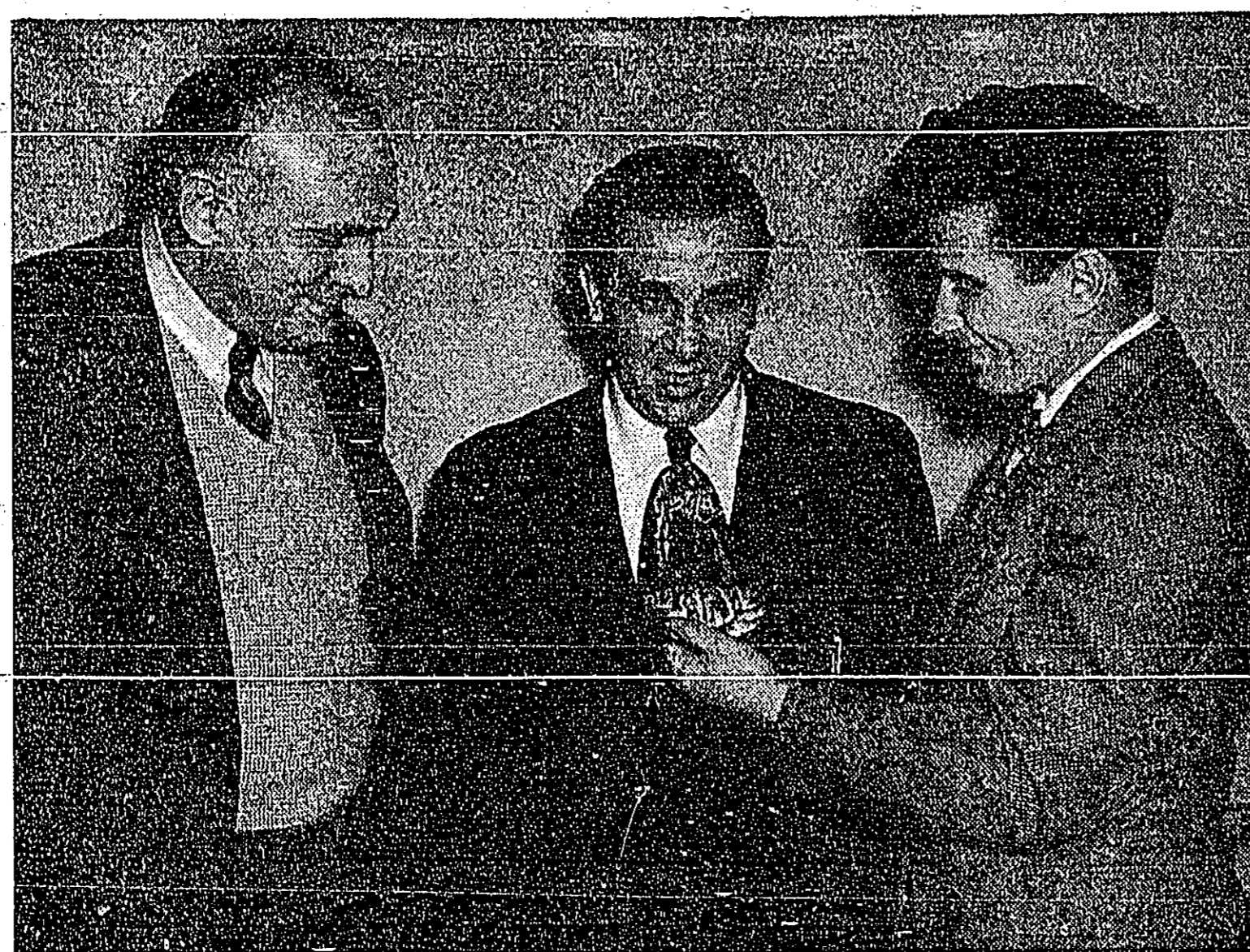
Perlin, who was recently appointed union attorney, handles compensation cases for members free of charge. He now has about 100 such cases, including 40 cases which he has reopened.

## Grievance Settled in Bldg. 73; EU News Wants More News

Foreman Michael Alicino of the plating dip room, Bldg. 73, has agreed to build a roof to cover the outside acid platform. A written grievance given the foreman by Shop Steward William Mastriani pointed out that winter weather conditions make the protection necessary.

EU News wants more stories from shop stewards about grievances settled in the shops. The information should be mailed or telephoned to the Editorial Committee at the union office.

## Admiring 'Repeal Taft-Hartley Law' Necktie



Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, center, wearing one of the new "Repeal the Taft-Hartley Law" neckties. The union members admiring the tie are E. H. Miller of Bldg. 60, left, and Board Member Joseph Mangino, right, of Bldg. 77.

### SPECIAL-CALLED Membership Meeting at Union Hall

7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 17  
(First and Third Shifts)

1 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 18  
(Second Shift)

Constitution Committee Report  
Regular Order of Business

Signed—  
301 Executive Committee

### Letter to Heck

Leo Jandreau has written to Speaker Oswald D. Heck of the Assembly and to the Ways and Means Committee asking that the hearing on the state budget be Feb. 12, Lincoln's Birthday, instead of Feb. 11. If the hearing is on the holiday, he pointed out, teachers and industrial and office workers will have a chance to appear.

## Unemployment Insurance Is Under Attack Again

The Stewards Council Tuesday condemned proposals to cut down the number of weeks Unemployment Insurance benefits are paid and to put new restrictions on the eligibility of workers. The Council endorsed bills backed by labor to liberalize the jobless payments.

Governor Dewey's Legislative Commission on Labor and Industry has indicated it will try to reduce the number of weeks for Unemployment Insurance. It also advocates forcing workers to accept any job offered, or lose their jobless pay. At present skilled workers are not required to take jobs that are lower skills or unskilled work. These and other proposals would more than offset the one improvement the Commission suggests, — increasing the minimum payment from \$10 to \$12 and the maximum from \$21 to \$25.

Labor unions have demanded the repeal of the "merit-rating" law which gives GE and other big corporations huge rebates from the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Labor wants benefits to range from \$10 to \$30, plus \$5 for each dependent up to three dependents. The labor bills also ask that sickness disability benefits be part of unemployment insurance.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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## GE Bans UE Booklet at Plant Gates

### Work Gets Underway On Membership Drive

As the first step in the organizing drive, the 301 office this week sent to all shop stewards forms on which to write the names and addresses of all workers in their groups. These forms are to be returned promptly to the union office for checking with the membership list.

The office will then send each steward union buttons for all the union members in his group to wear and the complete list of workers in the group who haven't joined 301 yet. From then on it's up to the stewards and the other union members to sign up the rest.

The Stewards' Council last week approved the Executive Board's plans for the drive. Workers joining 301 between Feb. 9 and Mar. 15 won't have to pay any initiation fee.

### \$25,000,000 Nest Egg

The General Electric Company received a federal income tax refund of \$25,087,526 last year, according to the list announced by the Bureau of Internal Revenue recently. The amount includes 6 per cent interest paid by the U. S. government.

The \$25,000,000 rebate is big enough to pay a 12 cents an hour pay increase for a year to the approximately 100,000 GE workers covered by UE contracts.

International General Electric Co. received a separate \$287,188 rebate.

### Membership Meeting

The Constitution Committee will report at the special-called membership meeting of Local 301 at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, for the first and third shifts, and at 1 p.m. Wednesday, for the second shift, at the union hall. There will be the regular order of business.

### Children's Parties

A series of Saturday morning parties for children of Local 301 members will be started during March by the Activities Committee. There will be movies, ice cream and cookies,—free.

### Food Center to Close Tomorrow Till?????

Today and tomorrow will be the 301 Food Center's last days at its present location, 1027 State St. These two days will also be the last chance of 301 members for an indefinite period to get food



James Cognetta



Albert Davis

at the lower prices made possible by the union's group buying project.

The Food Committee is still searching for satisfactory new quarters for the Center. The owner of 1027 State has allowed the union to use this building for several weeks past the date when he said he had to have the place for his own use.

Various questions connected with the Food Center, including the matter of a new location, and recent developments in the price situation, will be reviewed at the 301 membership meeting next Tuesday and Wednesday.

James Cognetta was reelected chairman of the Food Committee at its meeting Monday night. Albert Davis was chosen secretary.

Last week union families bought \$7,837.07 worth of food and supplies at the Center: \$1,797.24 Thursday; \$2,918.44 Friday, and \$3,121.39 Saturday.

### May Cut Down Bus Service

A. Frank Geiler, president of the Schenectady Railroad Company, this week notified officers of Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, that the bus company is considering cutting down on bus service. He didn't say what trips he planned to skip.

BUILD THE UNION

### Stops Distribution Of Information on Taft-Hartley Law

General Electric stopped distribution of a UE booklet analyzing the Taft-Hartley law at the plant gates Wednesday morning.

The company spreads its propaganda trying to defend the Taft-Hartley law every week in the Works News. Yet when Local 301 tried to hand out one short booklet giving the facts, company guards stopped it. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, told Leo Jandreau that the company objected.

Jandreau pointed out that the booklet was a UE publication giving facts, and that the union insisted on its right to give the booklet out. He asked Stevens why the company should be afraid to have the union present its own study of the new law.

Copies of the booklet will be in the hands of all shop stewards early next week. Be sure to ask your steward for a copy.

### GE Sends Union 1948 Proposals

The General Electric Company has sent its 1948 proposals to UE for changes in the contract. The union's proposals were submitted to the company in late January.

GE proposed Mar. 2 for the opening of the negotiating sessions, but the union objected to the date as too late and asked GE to agree on an earlier time.

The national UE office is making copies of the complete GE proposals to send to all GE locals for study.

### Income Tax Aid Asked

Business Agent Leo Jandreau has asked the International Revenue Bureau to assign somebody again this year to assist union members at 301 Hall in preparing their income tax returns. The district tax office at Albany has notified Jandreau that the request was turned over to the Schenectady office which is to contact the union "at an early date."

## Teachers Ask UE Aid In Legislative Fight

All groups of teachers in the state, CIO, AFL and independent, are fighting to remove the "merit-rating" system of giving raises to teachers. They also are fighting against financing raises by local "nuisance taxes" and they are backing the Young-Milmoe bill which would about double the money given to local schools from state funds.

Under the Feinberg law passed last year by the state legislature, "merit" raises are provided for teachers picked by local school authorities on the basis of their outside activities as well as their school work. The dangers of favoritism and unfairness are easy to see. The teachers want a system of automatic, annual raises based on training and experience.

In a letter to Local 301, the Schenectady Teachers Association asked cooperation in fighting the merit-rating system. The Schenectady Federation of Teachers, AFL, in a letter to UE District 3, pointed out the unfairness of the Dewey tax proposals to raise the money for salary increases by local sales taxes violating the sound tax principle of "ability to pay."

Schenectady teachers are giving letters to their pupils to take home to their parents asking them to write to legislators in favor of the Young-Milmoe bill, Senate Bill 153, for increased state aid. Letters should go to Oswald D. Heck, speaker of the Assembly, Senator Thomas Campbell of Schenectady, Senator Arthur H. Wicks, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Assemblyman D. Mallory Stevens, chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Their addresses are The Capitol, Albany.

The CIO and AFL are asking substantial pay increases to be granted this year.

The 301 Executive Board has recommended that union members back the teachers' demands.

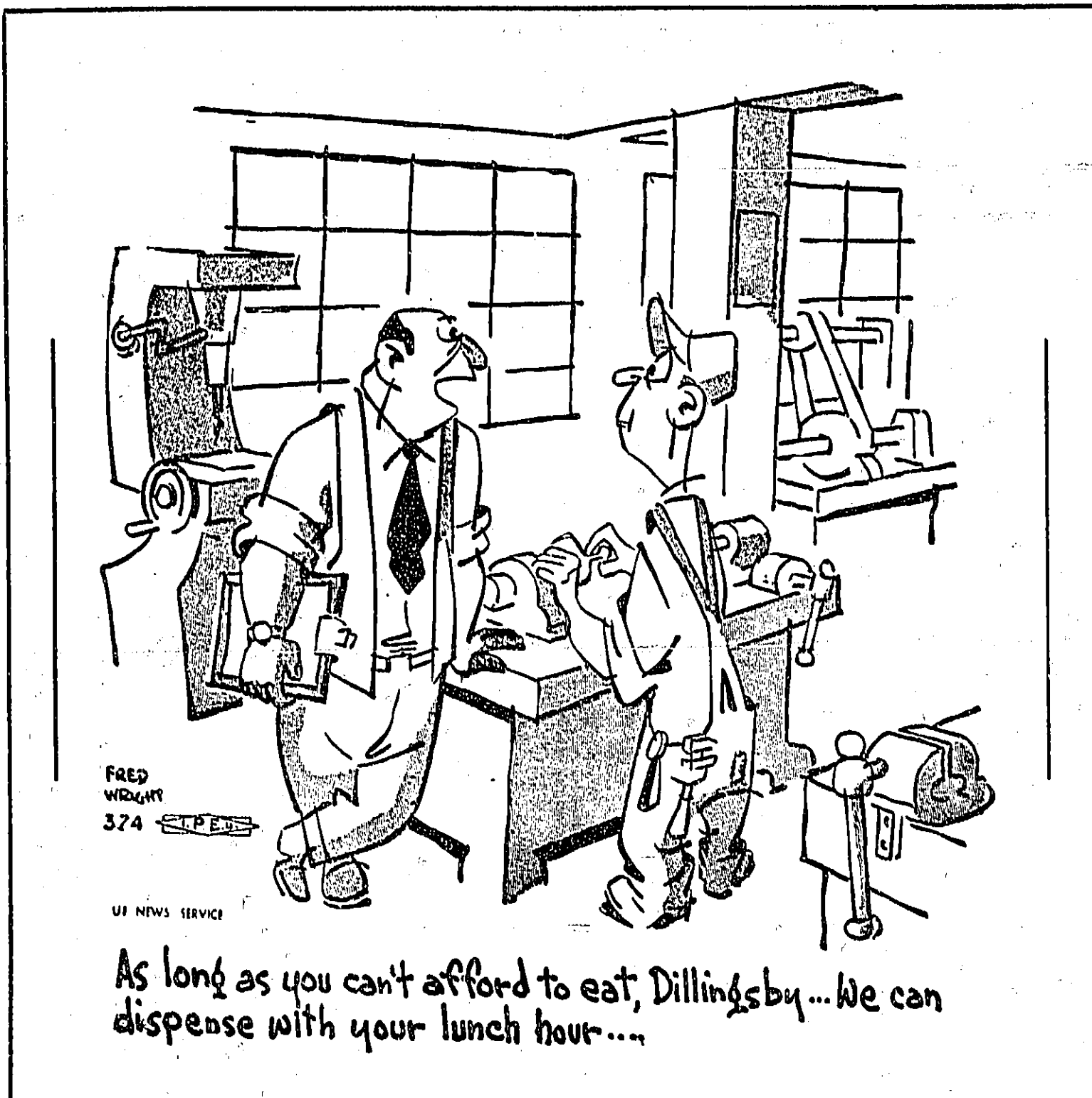
### ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## Pledge CIO Support For "Swan" Strikers

Workers at the Swan Cleaners and Dyers, 1816 State St., had been out on strike for over a week when this week's EU News went to press Wednesday.

The union involved, District 50, United Mine Workers, says that about 85 per cent of the employees walked out. The strike was called because of the firing of a girl member of the union who had been active in the recent organizing drive there.

The CIO Laundry Workers Union and the Capital District CIO Council Executive Board sent assurances of support to the strikers.

## Canadian UE Gets 8 Paid-Holidays

Holidays always before meant a pay cut to workers at the Canadian Locomotive Works, at Kingston, Canada. But their new UE contract gives them eight holidays with pay.

In addition there's a wage increase of 9 cents an hour and the contract can be reopened after Mar. 1 to negotiate a raise to help offset the increased cost-of-living.

## Punch Press Cases Finally Settled

Some long-standing difficulties over piece work prices and conditions in the punch press group under Foreman N. C. Jones have been settled as a result of grievance action. The group was until recently under Foreman William Atkinson.

Seven cases were sent to Bldg. 41 and a number of others taken up in the shop by Steward Sidney Friedlander, elected in December. As a result four veterans, new in the shop, who were being paid waiting time and day work at \$1.04, had this raised to the regular piece work rate of \$1.22. Three workers collected make-up for machine trouble, after it had been refused in the shop. An extended time study was taken on one job, the same one on which a veteran recently lost his right forearm. Make-up claims are tied to this time study. A number of other claims were settled with the foreman.

Working with Friedlander on the cases were Board Member Michael Tedisco and the union grievance committee.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE

## Introducing Five Shop Stewards of Local 301



George Walker, Local 301 guide, at extreme left, administering the oath of office to five newly elected shop stewards: left to right, Sarah E. Potter, Bldg. 68; Floyd Haverly, 89; Carl Selke, CAF; William Sanders, 85, and Louis Blumhager, 273.

## Check-up On GE Very Hush-Hush

State Workmen's Compensation officials now refuse to show Local 301 a copy of the state report on their special investigation into irregularities of the General Electric Plant at Schenectady in observing the Workmen's Compensation Law.

In fact, the state officials now won't admit on paper that such a report exists or such an investigation was ever made. The fact is, of course, that the investigation was made several weeks ago and confirmed charges made by Local 301. The state executives know the union is aware of the general contents of the report from first hand information from a state official.

Now the Compensation authorities take the position that if such a report exists (and they won't admit or deny in writing its existence) the report would be confidential and would not be given to the union.

Undoubtedly GE knows the full contents of the report. The union has informed the Workmen's Compensation Board that it will fight for the right of union members and the public to know the truth about the GE violations of the Workmen's Compensation Law.

## Life Insurance

The deadline for World War II veterans to reinstate their National Service Life Insurance without taking a physical examination has been extended until July 1.

## Other UE Pension Groups Follow Schenectady Lead

Pensioners from other GE plants are following the example of retired Schenectady workers by forming UE Pensioners organizations. Both Pittsfield and Lynn now have such groups, and others are being organized.

The UE-CIO 301 Pension Organization at its monthly meeting last week at 301 Hall pledged full support for the UE contract demands and made plans for a membership drive. The pensioners have asked that Local 301 members give them the names of retired relatives or friends who haven't yet joined the Pension Organization. This information should be turned in at the union office.

The 301 group meets at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the union hall. The members are planning an active social program with wives invited. UE movies will be shown at the next meeting.

## Oh What a Difference UE Contract Makes

The leaflet inserted in a recent EU News, entitled "GE Wages and GE Prices," contained the statement that the difference in basic wages between GE lamp plants in Ohio and Lexington, Kentucky, was 24 cents.

It was an understatement. The difference ranges from 27 cents up. Girl inspectors are paid 27 cents an hour less in Lexington than in Ohio. Common labor gets 32 cents less in Lexington. For machine jobs the difference ranges from 34 cents up.

## Mirror Headlines Attack on Union

You've probably been reading a lot in the newspapers this week about James J. Conroy, formerly business agent of UE Local 1237, New York City. The local covers various plants and offices employing business machine servicemen.

After letting their contracts die by default, Conroy led workers in four small shops out of UE and formed his own Mechanical and Electrical Workers Union of America. He claims 352 followers in these shops, less than 40 per cent of the entire local.

The New York Daily Mirror gave front page headlines to the anti-UE action. You won't remember the Mirror or any of the other papers that featured this news ever giving favorable union news a decent play, let alone front page headlines.

Here are a couple of things the Mirror didn't mention about Conroy.

During last year's Remington-Rand strike, when UE was picketing Remington-Rand offices in New York, Business Agent Conroy told members of his local to go through the picket lines.

About a year ago, before he became business agent of Local 1237, Conroy was appointed personnel manager of Decca Co. The job only lasted five days, however, because the UE workers went on strike in protest against his methods.

Conroy is a leader in the so-called "Democratic Action" group. He came to Schenectady last year to help plan some of the anti-301 activities of his group here.