

## Stewards Adopt 'Bread and Butter' Legislative Program

The shop stewards of UE Local 301, at meetings of all shifts held in the afternoon and evening last Monday, heard reports from their Legislative Committee and adopted a hard-hitting program of "bread and butter" political action.

Main emphasis was placed on winning legislative action state-wide to alleviate the growing unemployment situation and to halt anti-labor measures, such as the Butler Bill and Taft-Hartley amendments, in Washington.

Legislative Committee members, William Stewart, chairman; Larry Gebro, Allen E. Townsend, Frank D'Amico and James De Masseo reported on the legislative conference held on Saturday, Jan. 30 in New York City, sponsored by UE Districts 3 and 4.

Main points adopted by stewards for action were:

Revision of unemployment insurance law to raise benefits to \$40 weekly to be paid over full length of unemployment, with an additional \$3 for each dependent up to five. Increased state aid to farmers. Increased workmen's compensation to \$40 weekly maximum, with compensation for lost time at medical examinations and hearings and compensation for partial disability for silicosis victims. Equal pay for equal work. Increased state aid to education. A strengthened fair employment practices law. A state-wide minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour.

On the national level, outright opposition to any anti-labor measures to license and control unions such as the Butler bill, and repeal of the Taft-Hartley act.

Reporting to the stewards, Stewart said: "The Butler bill is one of the most vicious

anti-labor bills ever introduced. By licensing unions, bosses could tell you what kind of union you could have. They could fire at will and we know what that means when the company would like to fire all over 40 years old and save paying pensions. All unions are the target. Our New York senators are against it. We must show them our support by successfully completing our petition campaign against this bill.

"There are those who say we should stay out of politics and stick to wages, hours and working conditions. But you won't keep those conditions if those people in Albany and Washington who represent the National Association of Manufacturers have their way. We need to elect people — and 1954 is the time to get them — who represent working people and not the NAM."

De Masseo reported: "Only 60 percent of workers in this country are covered by unemployment insurance. And to show how badly a change is needed in our state unemployment insurance laws, here's two cases reported at the legislative conference on what they do to working people.

"One woman was told she was a housewife and a domestic before she worked in a shop and she should agree to go back to it for \$1.25 an hour or she wouldn't get unemployment insurance. In another case, a man was offered two hours work a day. He refused and was turned down for unemployment insurance. He brought his UE steward to the unemployment office, who told them if they didn't pay the insurance he'd get the Union's attorney. They then agreed to pay."

D'Amico reported: "The Hughes-Brees

amendments to the unemployment insurance law that were passed a couple of years ago reduced benefits from 52 to 26 weeks. We've got to get this bosses' amendment repealed. We must also push for the maximum number of signatures in our shop to oppose the Butler Bill so that Congress will know how we feel."

Gebro reported: "I was very impressed by the conference. You could hear a pin drop while discussions went on. The figures of 2,350,000 are false on unemployment. It's over four million now. The government said there was only four million unemployed in 1949, but UE exposed the fact there were actually six million."

Townsend reported: "The large companies have the objective of more power and more money. Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks says the way out of a recession is to sell more to farmers and the wage earners who are 'hoarding' their money. He says we're keeping it in our pockets and causing a depression, but repeal of the excess profits tax means a corporation like GM can produce with one-third less workers one-third less cars this year and make the same amount of profits as last year. Congress did that for big business, while at the same time giving working people a small tax decrease and then making it up with a bigger social security tax.

"The reason for these bills against unions is that unions are the only obstacle to the plans of big business for more power and more money—and a man like Senator McCarthy is only helping by trying to revive blacklists like in 1919."

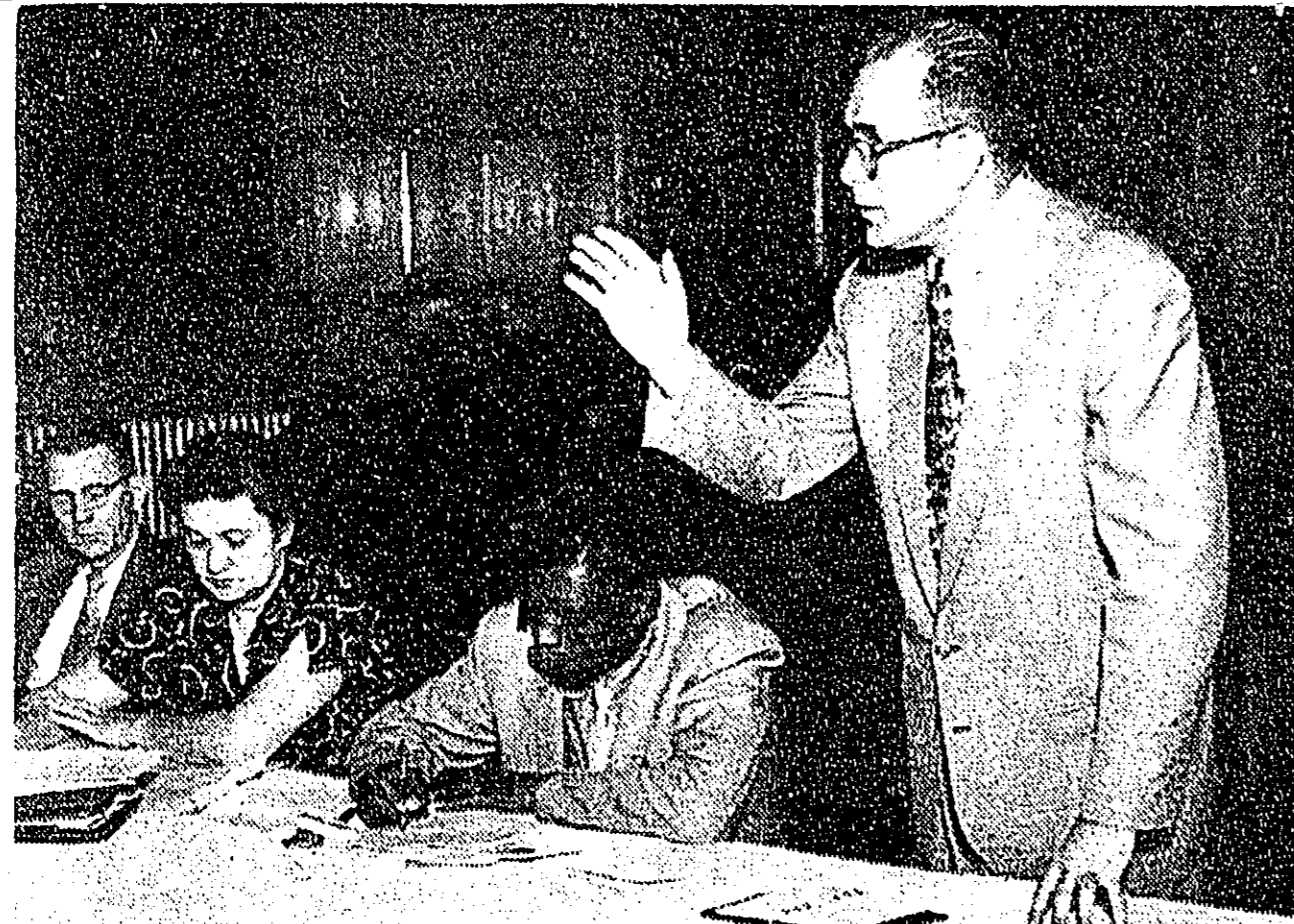
## U.S. Army Explains Generator Award

Brig.-Gen. C. H. Chorpene, Asst. Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army, last week stated that the award to an English firm for two generators for McNary Dam was one that was "referred to cabinet level for decision."

(301) Pres. James J. Cognetta had earlier this month protested the award to an English firm because it "would provide a million hours of work for GE workers which we sorely need in face of the ever-growing unemployment in our area and the layoffs taking place daily in our plant."

Cognetta had urged the contract be given to GE, the lowest bidder among U.S. firms.

Chorpene wrote that "questions of foreign policy and foreign economic aid were of great importance" in giving the contract to an English firm. "I am sure," he continued, "that you agree with the principle that foreign aid programs of billions of dollars each year, for which nothing is received in return, are much less desirable than reciprocal trade relations which might accomplish the same economic effect."



CHAIRLADY: The UE District 3 and 4 Legislative Conference, held last Saturday in New York City, was chaired by Local 301's own Helen Quirini, who is seen above at speaker's table. Also seen from l. to r. are Lewis King, District 3 president; Quirini, William Wallace, District 4 secretary and Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative.

## Accept Board of Education Invitation

The Union has accepted an invitation from Jessie T. Zoller, president of the Schenectady Board of Education, to attend a meeting next Tuesday, Feb. 8, at which a discussion will be held on the safety and adequacy of the Nott Terrace High School buildings.

In a letter to Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent, Mrs. Zoller said: "Members of your organization have indicated an interest in the efforts of the Board to secure a new comprehensive high school. We feel certain you will be interested in this meeting. I wish, therefore, to invite you and representatives of your group to be present."

## Craftsmen Protest Job Handling

A long accumulating blow-up occurred last Monday when building craftsmen stopped work to protest the giving of their work to production workers.

They returned to work Wednesday morning. At press-time, UE Local 301 officers were setting up a meeting to reach a solution.

GE in its decentralization program wants completely independent departments, which have been encouraged to do all jobs, regardless of whether done formerly by building craftsmen.

In Dept. 285, where the stoppage occurred, production workers were placed at a lower rate on jobs that craftsmen formerly handled. This practice in the past has angered craftsmen and in some cases resulted in ruined work. The fact that workers doing it lack skills and equipment has resulted in some deplorable safety hazards.

Central management previously has refused to work out a solution. The Union is now demanding the immediate working out of procedure satisfactory to all departments, the craftsmen and GE's production needs.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## G.E. Conference Board Draws 1954 Proposals

The UE-GE Conference Board held their meeting in New York City last Friday and Saturday to consider the contract proposals for 1954, which were recommended by the various UE-GE Locals throughout the country.

UE Local 301 was represented by the officers of the Local.

The Conference Board elected a national G.E. Negotiations Committee of eight to meet with the Company in April. The basic demands, such as wages, holidays, vacations, pensions, insurance, hospitalization, seniority, etc., were approved. Several items were referred to the national committee for disposition.

A report was made on employment in the various G.E. plants by the delegates. Erie G.E. Local 506 is hit the hardest with a considerable number laid off and rotating. The other plants reported some layoffs but nothing serious at present.

A more detailed breakdown of the final recommendations from the Conference Board will be submitted to the Local Unions for approval.

## Company to Consider Building Trade Proposals for Settlement of Dispute

### Executive Board Reaffirms Seniority

As a result of two small groups objecting to application of seniority rights being applied on their job, the Executive Board last Monday voted unanimously on a statement that no group of employees can be immune to seniority.

The truck drivers in Bldg. 227 objected to other transportation employees who have more service bumping them from their jobs. The same truck drivers demanded that when openings occur for truck drivers in the plant, these openings should be filled by employees from their group. This request made sense and was supported by the Union. However, the truck drivers do not want to accept the fact that the door swings both ways. The opposition to accepting seniority in their group was led by three people who also were advocating joining the AF of L Teamsters Union. They didn't inform the other truck drivers that in a separate bargaining unit they would not have seniority on a plant-wide basis; it

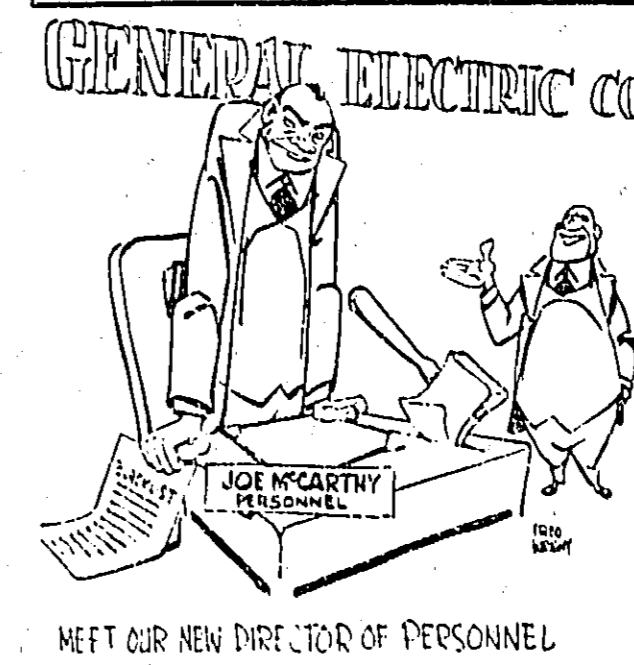
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In a meeting between the officers of UE Local 301 and Management last Thursday, the Union proposed several ways that would lead to a satisfactory solution of the Building Tradesmen protest of work assignments, to shop maintenance employees.

The dividing line between the Building Trades and shop maintenance has been controversial for a long time, mainly because the Management has not established rules that would have cleaned up this problem long ago. There have been regular complaints made by Building Trades workers, whenever they happened to observe a job being done by maintenance employees that was usually done by themselves. These complaints, when brought to the attention of management, would be corrected. However, it became a regular routine of complaints and adjustments.

Now with the decentralization program in effect, and Management encouraging the departments to be more self sustaining, the departments have seemed to extend their jurisdiction on maintenance work to include jobs that are definitely Bldg. Trade work. As an example of this, in Bldg. 285 machines were being painted by machine operators, at a much lower

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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. 46: C. Burke, although classified as a Borematic Operator, 2.11 A.E.R., is doing work properly classified Class "A" Jig Bore, 2.26 A.E.R. Union demands proper increase in rate.

Bldg. 49: The Horizontal Boring Mill Operators demand a time study on operation 16, drwg. 9799-135-1 second stage nozzle assembly and proper adjustment of present age.

Bldg. 60: J. Iacubucci, H. Schworm, A. Lantewski and J. Hennessy feel they are qualified to be upgraded to Class "C" Crane and Elevator Repairmen.

Bldg. 60: A. Tanchek is classified as a Class "B" Crane Repairman and has not been given proper consideration for upgrade to Class "A". Union demands management correct situation.

Bldg. 109: G. Spalde has been placed as a Furnace Helper, Job

Rate 1.64. A shorter service employee was placed on a Rolling Mill, Job Rate 2.005. G. Spalde was a former Film Coat Operator, Job Rate 2.005. Therefore, Union demands he be placed on Rolling Mill job.

Bldg. 273: The helpers under Foreman Wallingford feel that the entire group of helpers should share in the rotation due to present temporary lack of work caused by defective castings.

Bldg. 273: Group under Foreman Summers protest cutting of standard prices on diaphragms although there has been no change in method. Union demands restoration of standard prices according to contract.

Bldg. 273: The Assembler Erectors and Floor Assemblers demand clarification as to which group should be assigned to dulling and dowsing inter shells and 2 and 3

piece units. Bldg. 273: H. J. Newell protests violation of Contract, Article X-1-(c). Union demands he be transferred to 1st shift according to Contract.

Bldg. 273: The entire group under Foreman Sugalski have protested the arbitrary attitude he is exercising even to the extent of neglecting to answer grievances according to Contract. Union demands management properly instruct Sugalski in duties and responsibilities of a foreman and to abide by Contract.

Bldg. 273: Group under Foreman Sugalski demand that management instruct him to distribute overtime equally according to Contract.

Bldg. 273: F. Bush protests attempt to cut standard prices on radial drill press operations. Un-

ion demands management make proper adjustment.

Bldg. 273: Foreman Ebbefeld has refused to assign E. Barcomb to all parts of his job. Union demands opportunity for E. Barcomb to qualify and receive increase to job rate.

Bldg. 273: Former Foreman P. Wronowski has been placed on diaphragm chipping job in violation of contract, Article XI-8. Union demands he be removed and properly placed.

Bldg. 273: C. Metz and J. Becker have not been paid full amount for assembling and scraping bearings on 180-3723 and 180-3696. Union demands they be paid additional amounts they are entitled to.

Bldg. 273: E. Sykes, J. Godlewski and J. Szumigola have suffered a loss in earnings due to the fact that they are no longer allowed to do a job completely. Union demands situation be corrected so that they can maintain earnings.

Bldg. 285: M. Gerum and E. Urbanski are classified as Machinists Class "C". They do not feel they have received proper consideration for upgrading. Union demands an opportunity on future openings.



Detroit—Great Lakes Steel Corp. largest steel mill in this area and chief local supplier of auto steel, laid off over 15% of its workers Jan. 28.

Windsor, Ont.—Crying poor, the Ford Motor Co. of Canada told UAW-CIO Local 200 that it can't afford to pay the 30c an hour raise plus fringes the union demands.

Washington—Unmistakable evidence developed at hearings on the current U. S. economic situation that the Eisenhower administration is not at all disturbed about unemployment as long as it hovers around 2.5 million.

Washington—The annual report of the Federal Bureau of Mines on accidents in the coalfields reveals that in 1953 one out of every 14 miners was injured or killed.

Washington—Indications are that organized labor in the U. S. will get little except high taxes out of the Defense Dept. program to build a billion dollars worth of air bases in Britain and fascist Spain.

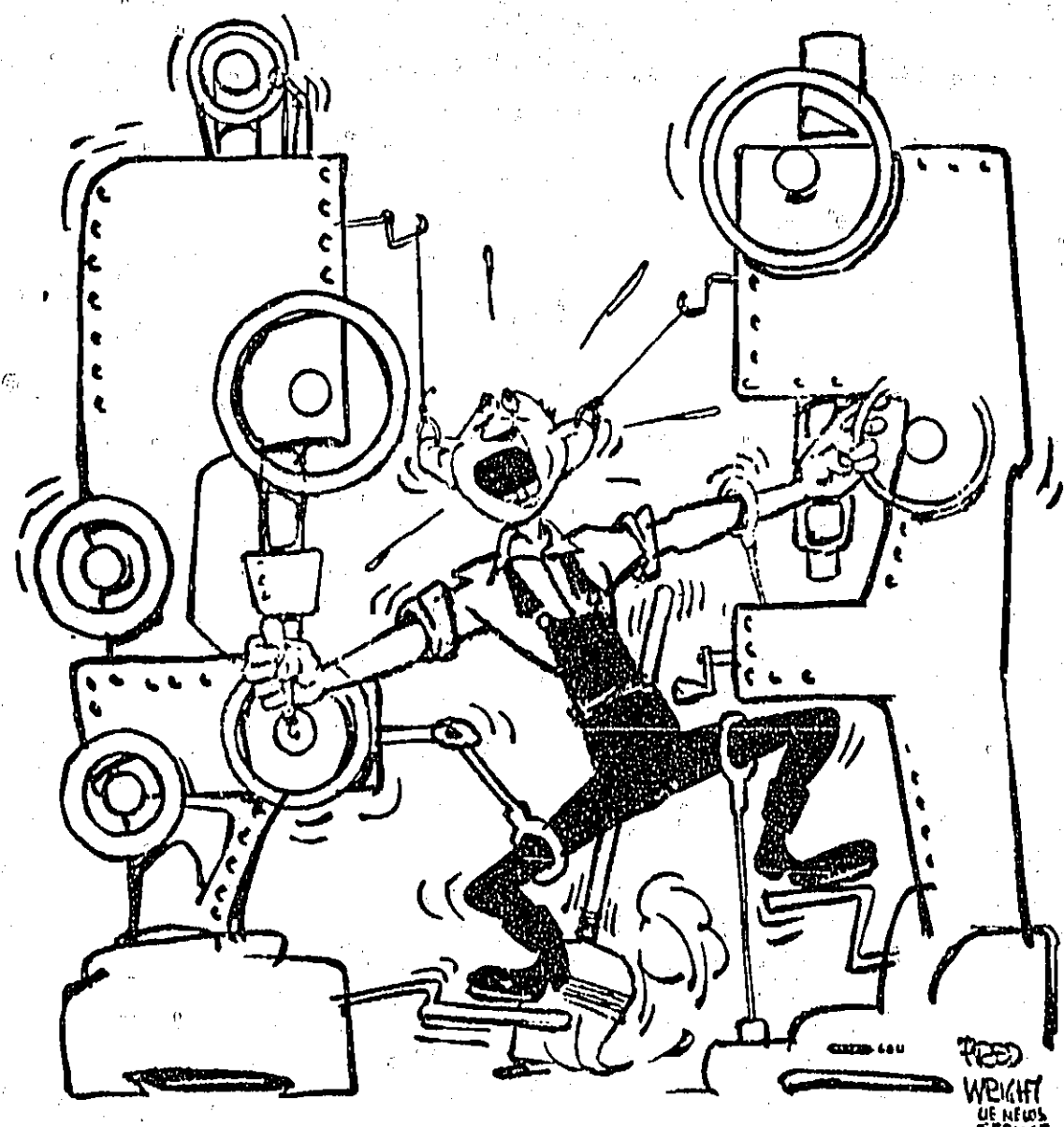
Miami Beach—Warning that serious trouble lies ahead for the nation's economy, the AFL executive council has set forth a 7-point program to head off a depression.

Washington—Legislative leaders of some unions are gearing for a battle against oppressive legislation they believe will be even worse than the Taft-Hartley act.

New York—Under the spur of worsening business conditions, American industry is moving faster toward the system of pushbutton production that supplants workers with machines, the Wall Street Journal reports.

New York—The results of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's "headlined investigation at the Army Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories at Ford Monmouth, N. J., were "a serious disruption of the scientific work at the laboratory," according to a survey by a committee of scientists.

Washington—Census Bureau figures released Jan. 29 listed 2,359,000 U. S. workers as unemployed during the week ended Jan. 9, an increase of almost a half million over the December figure.



QUICK, HENRY, THE STEWARD!

## Company to Consider Building Trade Proposals for Settlement of Dispute

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rate than a maintenance painter receives. In the same building a number of steel benches were being made by some production workers. In Bldg. 105 a Furnace car was being repaired by a shop maintenance group. The car finally was ruined along with damaging the furnace which the car was used in. Some maintenance workers were building stock racks, requiring 6" I Beams, which definitely belongs to the steel workers.

These are some of the recent cases that happened within the last couple of weeks that have irritated the Building Trade group, to the point of stopping work.

The Management has taken an impossible position which does not solve the problem. They claim the departments are only doing what they have been normally doing in the past. This position allows for anything, inasmuch as there were never any rules of demarcation between the jurisdiction of both groups. The Union proposed the following:

1)—Complete Building Trades groups established in geographical areas in the plant, to bring the Bldg. Trade service closer to a job that has to be done. This will eliminate the waiting period caused by the present central service.

2)—Before any further decentralization affecting Bldg. Tradesmen, or their work, the company

will call the Union in to discuss their plans.

3)—Lines of demarcation to be established on jobs defining Bldg. Trades jurisdiction and the jurisdiction of shop maintenance.

The Company has taken the Union's proposals under advisement, and will report back. The Bldg. Trade Committee, at their last meeting on Friday, Feb. 5th, voted to withhold further action pending outcome of the management meeting.

## 100% Pay Increase For Congressmen

The base pay of members of Congress would be increased from the present \$12,500 to \$25,000 a year and the \$2,500-a-year expense allowance they now receive would be merged with the proposed new salaries, making them \$27,500. In addition, members of Congress would be granted reimbursement for six round trips from their districts to Washington each year.

Salary of the chief justice of the U.S. would be boosted from \$25,000 to \$40,000, those of associate justices from \$25,000 to \$39,500. Appeals court judges would be upped from \$17,500 to \$30,500 and U.S. district judges from \$15,000 to \$27,500.

## Motor Generator Has Needy Case

The collection in Bldg. 16 to help John Duzynski defray the terrific cost of medical bills, which he has been subject to for the past eight years, has been reported to be progressing slowly.

John's wife has required costly medical treatment amounting to approximately \$500.00 a month.

A shop committee, headed by Graham Herwerth and Edward Peek is in charge of the collection drive. Anyone interested in helping this needy case can call Mr. Herwerth on G.E. Ext. 3117; residence, Schenectady 5-2137; or Mr. Peek at his home, 2-0933.

## Executive Board Reaffirms Seniority

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would be confined to their small group.

It is interesting to note in this situation that supervision and management were not taking sides even though the group had stopped work. Usually when a stoppage occurs, foremen run around like chickens with their heads off and management burns the telephones to the Union office. Everything seemed to be pretty calm in this stoppage. Reports came to the Union office that foremen were encouraging the fight. Management was claiming it is an inter-Union fight and they were reluctant to interfere.

The Company's position in this situation is very clear to Union officials, because it affects a provision in the Contract, seniority, which they have never wholeheartedly accepted. The application of the seniority provision in our Contract has required continual meetings with the Company over violations of this agreement. The Union has been required to set up a special layoff and placement committee which meets with the Company twice each week on seniority violations.

The officers advised the truck drivers that they were wrong in stopping work over this issue, and, furthermore, they were being used to fight against one of the most important protective provisions in the Union Contract, seniority rights.

At press time the group was still down and we were informed the plant cafeterias would not be serving lunch because of the stoppage.

ASK YOUR STEWARD ABOUT U.E. LOCAL 301 OPTICAL PLAN

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

## The Purpose of Court Hearings In Compensation Cases

Almost every worker who has been injured and who has filed a compensation claim must appear in court for a hearing at least once and sometimes more often. These hearings are held before a referee whose role is to decide what claim the injured worker has as a result of his injuries and what remedy is to be given to the injured worker.

An injured worker who appears at a hearing usually is first examined by a doctor who is hired by the State Government to give a written report of whether the worker is still suffering from his injury. He also reports as to whether the worker is completely disabled from returning to work.

Naturally if the worker has fully recovered from his injuries, the case is usually closed, the Company being responsible now for any medical treatments he was required to receive as a result of his accident and also to pay him for his lost time or earnings resulting from the accident.

There is usually no dispute between the worker and the company in such cases except if the worker feels, despite what the State Doctor has said about his having completely recovered, that he is still having trouble as a result of his injuries. In such cases, the referee allows the worker more time, before closing the case, to bring in medical reports from his own doctor, as to his physical condition.

The role of the referee in compensation cases is to listen to the claim the injured worker is making and to settle a dispute if the Company states that the claim is unfounded.

Disputes sometimes arise in certain types of cases. The Company for example, may dispute whether an accident has taken place altogether and this will put the worker to the proof that an accident has in fact taken place. Supposing a worker, for example, faints while at work and falls to the ground, hurting his head. Here, the Company's dispute might be that this was not an "accident" arising out of the employment but just an unfortunate incident for which the Company should not be held responsible. The referee, at this point, wants to know all the facts. The union's lawyer guides the worker's testimony at the hearing that all of the facts are presented. Did the worker faint because of the nature of the work, or for private reasons? Did the worker hurt himself with some tool or equipment after he fainted or did he just fall to the ground? When all of the facts are in, including even the testimony of witnesses,

the referee will make a decision. Either side, if it does not agree with the decision, can take an appeal. The lawyer's role is to appear and argue the appeal, if his client has lost the case and if he feels that the case should have been won.

To reduce the number of disputed cases, a worker owes it to himself to tell his lawyer all of the facts. This makes it easier to dispose of the case without unnecessary delays.

In further articles, there will be discussed various types of other disputes which arise in compensation cases.

## Westinghouse Stewards Pledge Support

A meeting of shop stewards from Air Brake and Union Switch Divisions of U. E. Local 610, Wilmerding, Pa., heard a report on the new G. E. policy affecting firing of employees who appear before Congressional committees from John Nelson, President of the Erie G. E. Local 506.

Nelson, who is a victim of the G. E. policy, has been suspended by the Company as a result of his appearance before the Butler Committee in Pittsburgh last month, because he exercised his Constitutional rights.

Harold Briney, the President of the Westinghouse Air Brake Local 610, was also called before the Butler Committee. He took the same position as Nelson of not cooperating with a committee whose purpose is to destroy organized labor. His employment status is not affected inasmuch as the Air Brake Corporation has not adopted the G. E. Policy.

The shop stewards' meeting adopted a resolution giving full support morally and financially in a fight against G. E. for suspending any U.E. member who defends himself before these anti-labor committees.

## If Laid Off, Keep In Good Standing

UE Local 301 members who are laid off for lack of work should continue to remain in good standing by paying their unemployment dues of 10c each month. They should attend union meetings, and they are entitled to call upon the Union for assistance in obtaining their unemployment insurance, or any other problem they have until they are back to work. If you change your address, notify the Union office.



HOW DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE ON THE FLOOR BELOW ARE GOING TO TAKE OUR BUSINESS REVERSALS?

## Shop Stewards Classes Start Tuesday, Feb. 16

The schedule for shop stewards' classes was mailed to every shop steward this week, notifying each steward when he is expected to be present.

There will be two groups scheduled for separate meetings on each scheduled day starting Feb. 16 and continuing on Feb. 17, 23, 24 and March 2 and 3. All meetings start at 7:30 P.M. except the second shift which is scheduled for 1:00 P.M.

The agenda will include a review of the contract and the program of the Union.

## GE Cancels New York Meeting

The General Electric Company cancelled a meeting with the UE National Negotiations committee, that was scheduled in New York last Thursday to discuss some of the problems that existed in the various plants throughout the Company affecting the application of the contract. The Company's excuse was that they must appear before a Congressional committee (not subpoenaed) to put into the record the need of more repressive Anti-labor legislation.

The General Electric realized that Legislation that will restrict unions, and make them more ineffective, is more important than settling a problem that exists in any of the plants through negotiations with a Union. With the type of legislation they are after, why negotiate?

## GM Also Begins Layoffs in Plants

Unemployment in midwest auto plants really began to look serious when General Motors put its Chevrolet plants on a 4-day week indefinitely. Ford had practically cut out overtime. Chrysler long ago instituted mass layoffs, and the independents are on short weeks or complete layoffs of certain departments.

In the last week of January claims for unemployment benefits rose 16%, the Michigan employment security commission reported. Workers now getting benefits totaled 150,156 Jan. 28, it said. GM's clipped Chevy employees total close to 65,000.

Plymouth Local 51, UAW-CIO, wired U. S. Labor Sec. Mitchell to do something. Peak employment of 11,500 at Chrysler's Plymouth plant is now down to 5700—less than half. The Plymouth telegram followed a hot one to Washington by Dodge Local 3.

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