

Canned Food, Soap Are Still on Sale

Local 301 members and their families can buy the Food Center's remaining canned goods, soap and soap flakes today and tomorrow at 1027 State St. The place will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. tomorrow.

The Food Committee has been unable to find any place to move yet and is following every possible lead to locate a suitable building. Last week the committee thought the problem was solved but the arrangements fell through at the last minute.

Even when a new location is found, there will be additional delay preparing the place for opening. There should be very little stock to move, after union members do their shopping this week-end.

The 301 membership meeting this week approved the Food Committee report, submitted by Chairman James Cognetta. All union members were urged to notify the committee about any suitable building they hear of.

Last week union members bought \$5,722.27 worth of food and supplies at the Center: \$1,811.76 Thursday; \$2,036.85, Friday and \$1,873.66, Saturday.

Aldhous Appointed

The Executive Board appointed Stanley Aldhous of Bldg. 269 Monday to the Constitution Committee, to replace Edward Wallingford who declined to serve. Aldhous is a shop steward.

New Job Handed To GE Foremen

GE foremen are about to embark on a personal mission to sell "anti-inflation" to the workers in the plant.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, so notified Leo Jandreau on Wednesday. Jandreau asked for specific details as to the foremen's message, but Stevens declined to be specific.

Of course, GE foremen have been receiving schooling in the Boulware brand of "anti-inflation," which favors low wages, record profits, speed-up, and the supposed "benefits" of the Taft-Hartley act.

Jandreau pointed out to Stevens that workers would object to being buttonholed by foremen at the expense of their earnings.

Planning Social Program for 301



Meeting of the Activities Committee. Front row, left to right, Edward J. La Bombard, Jr., Bldg. 97, co-chairman; Gordon Belgrave, Bldg. 17, chairman; and Ann Koval, Bldg. 46, secretary. Standing, James Cognetta, Bldg. 52; Helen Quirini, Bldg. 81; Jean Schwartz, Bldg. 81, assistant secretary, and Louis Durrer, Bldg. 85. Several members were not present. Ann Koval and Jean Schwartz were added to the committee recently by the Executive Board.

Employers Rush to Use T-H Board Against Workers; Unions That 'Submit' to Board Are Under Attack

Statistics issued by the Taft-Hartley Board as of Jan. 1 show the widespread use that employers have made of the Board already.

As David Scribner, UE general counsel, puts it, "employers have rushed to the Board in droves to get the Board to do their dirty work for them."

There were 164 company petitions for elections filed. While such petitions waited Board action, all the companies refused to bargain with the unions involved.

Company stooges have already filed 196 petitions to decertify — or kick out — unions that have had contracts.

Employers have filed 242 unfair labor practice charges against unions. These include charges of coercion and refusal to bargain. Meanwhile the companies won't bargain till the board disposes of the charges. There were 80 charges filed against unions by individuals, — chiefly by company stooges.

Lawsuits for more than \$15,000,000 have been filed by employers against unions under the Taft-Hartley Law. Numerous injunctions against unions have been sought by the Board and employers.

Scribner said it is significant that many of these actions were taken

against unions that "have submitted" to the Taft-Hartley Board.

"Such unions are now waking up to the fact that they did not buy any immunity whatsoever from the employer attack by submission to the Board," he pointed out.

Scribner declared UE has been less involved in this kind of employer attack than unions which "submitted" to the Board.

"And the reason is simply that UE workers, through their organizational strength and unity, are in most cases successfully resisting and fighting back any employer attempts to use the Taft-Hartley Law to deprive them of their union and the gains they have made in wages and working conditions."

301 Broadcast

The Local 301 radio program is at 7:30 p.m. every Monday over WSNY.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 6 — No. 9

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

February 27, 1948

Local 301 Officers and Board Are Installed



Installation of officers and Executive Board of Local 301 at the membership meeting Feb. 17. Charles Rivers, executive secretary of UE District 3, is shown administering the oath of office. Front row, left to right, Charles Ferris, Willard Kuschel, and Frank C. Kriss, Board members; Edmund Tanski, trustee; Marshall White, treasurer; Helen Quirini, recording secretary; Leo Jandreau, business agent; William Stewart, Board member; George Walker, guide; William Hodges, vice-president; Lawrence F. Schilling, Board member, and Andrew Peterson, president. Second row, Sam Scott, Henry Busse and James Cognetta, Board members; William A. Downs, trustee; Albert Davis, trustee and Board member; Fred Pacelli, Joseph A. Mangino and John P. Brauneisen, Board members. Not present when the picture was taken: Alfred J. Pelrah, assistant recording secretary; William Mastriani, chief shop steward; Harmon Cartwright, sergeant at arms and the following Board members, Anthony Villano, Michael Tedisco, Anthony Esposito, Stanley Bishop, C. E. Groesbeck, Dewey Brashear, Edward J. La Bombard, Jr., Leland Sisto and Mary McCarlin.

Hopes to Find New Quarters For Local 301 Food Center

James Cognetta, chairman of the 301 Food Committee, says he hopes to have good news to report next week. The committee has been searching for many weeks for a new location for the Food Center.

After selling some left-over canned goods and soap last week, the Food Center is now closed until it reopens in new quarters. Irving Yulman, manager, is taking inventory.

Bonus Applications

The Veterans' Bonus Bureau in Albany has returned some bonus application forms with the explanation that a notary's seal or the notation "City of Schenectady" was required. Legal counsel to the Bureau agreed with Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, that both rulings were wrong and the applications should have been processed. Instructions were given accordingly to the bureau staff. If any 301 members had forms returned, they should bring them to the 301 hall instead of sending them back direct, in order to insure speedy processing.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE

Income Tax Help

Because the Internal Revenue office at the Post Office is open only Monday through Friday for people wanting help in making out their income tax returns, Local 301 will have its own tax experts at 301 Hall tomorrow (Saturday) and the next two Saturdays, Mar. 6 and Mar. 13. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There was considerable demand by union members for this Saturday help on income tax. The service is principally for those who can't get to the Post Office during the Monday through Friday period, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

People going to the Post Office or 301 Hall should take along the company statement of their withholding tax.

Other years federal men have been assigned to 301 Hall, but Edward J. Connolly, Schenectady division chief, turned down the union's request this year on the grounds that his staff is now too small.

UE-GE Contract Negotiations Start Tuesday

Wage and contract bargaining for 1948 will start next Tuesday morning in the General Electric Company's office in New York. The union bargaining committee will hold a preliminary meeting Monday at the national UE office to review the union's and company's proposals.

Joseph Dermody, secretary of the union's GE Conference Board, heads the negotiators. Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau is a member of the committee as in past years.

The union's proposals have been published in summary form in this paper. They will be discussed in more detail as the negotiations develop.

The company also has submitted many proposed changes. The principal ones include:

Changes which would weaken the standard price protection of the agreement and the provision on rates to be

(Continued on Page 2)

GE Finally Recognizes State Rule on Waivers

Reports received this week at the union office indicate that the Schenectady GE plant is now giving waivers to injured workers to sign, as provided for by the Workmen's Compensation Law, before they are treated by a company doctor or a doctor selected by the company.

Local 301 had complained to the State Workmen's Compensation Board about GE irregularities in this connection. GE had failed to inform workers of their right to choose their own physicians and had neglected to get waivers of this right from workers before sending them to doctors for treatment.

In emergency cases, workers may be treated by company doctors without waivers. Otherwise, they are not supposed to be sent to doctors selected by the company unless they sign waivers of their right to choose their own doctors. Even if they sign such waivers, they can always change to their own doctors. The union advises workers to see their own physicians.

Another complaint the union made to the state was that the company doesn't post enough notices about the Workmen's Compensation rights of workers. As far as the union knows, the number has not yet been increased.

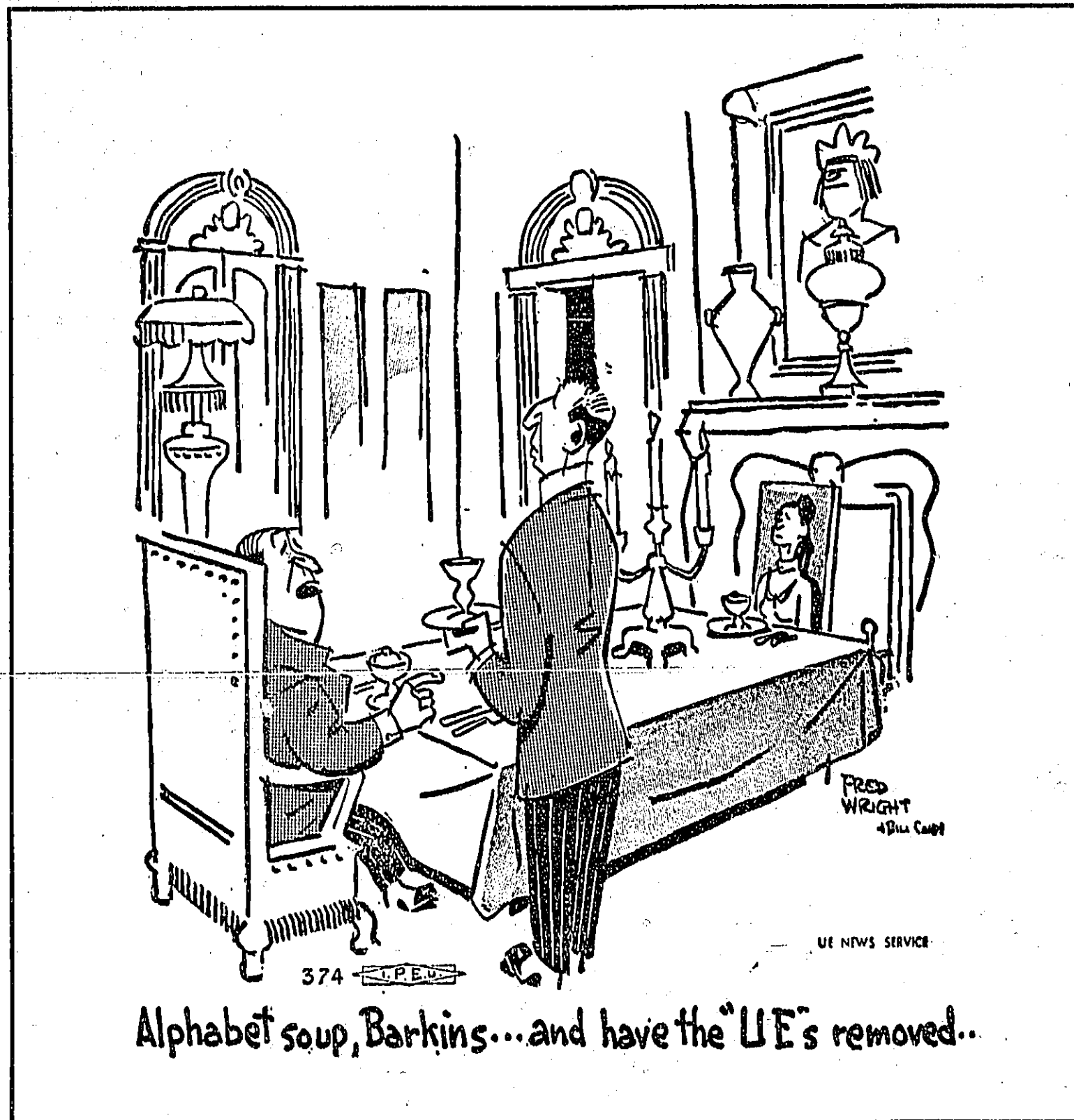
Conditions reported by the union were confirmed recently by state investigators, but their report was not made public. Local 301 plans to keep a continuous and close check on GE practices in connection with cases of illness and injury.

Get Higher Rate

Reclassification of four workers in Bldg. 73A won them a 5 cent rate increase, retroactive to Jan. 23. Management agreed this week to change them from the \$1.40 classification of sheet metal worker to the repair and adjust classification, \$1.45, after a shop investigation. The written grievances were filed by Shop Stewards Carl Fuchs and Albert A. Dorries for the four.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee
William Templeton, Chairman
Mary McMartin, Secretary
William Landau, Victor Pasche
Clayton Pudney
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 3-1386
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.



Polio Collection Nears Completion

Michael Tedisco, Board member representing Bldgs. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19, has turned in the largest collection, \$413.71, for the March-of-Dimes drive. Next highest are: William Stewart, Board member for Bldg. 60, with \$281.62; Sam Scott, Bldgs. 273 and 285, with \$229.22; Anthony Esposito, Bldg. 53, \$190.47, and Stanley Bishop, Bldg. 65 and 69, with \$183.35.

A total of \$3,054.33 had been handed in as of Wednesday. The union office has asked shop stewards to complete their collections immediately and give the money to the Board members to turn in. The deadline for getting the contributions to the union office is Monday.

Jib Crane Installed

As the result of a grievance taken up by Shop Steward Roy Lash, Foreman Barney Gardinier, Bldg. 60, has had a jib crane installed next to the Milwaukee milling machine in the west gallery of his department. Gardinier has agreed that the largest nut that the operator will be required to lift on the machine would be 83 pounds.

UE-GE Negotiations Will Start Tuesday

(Continued from Page 1)
paid an upgraded worker. Another change would weaken the system of job classifications, by weakening the application of job definitions; Weakening the general seniority provision (the union's position is that the provision is too weak now); and completely eliminating the present top seniority for shop stewards;

Making it compulsory for workers to accept overtime, except as prevented by illness or unusual personal inconvenience;

Weakening the provision for arbitration of unsettled grievances. The union argues the provision is already too weak, in view of the company's frequent refusal to submit grievances to arbitration when requested by the union.

Red Cross Drive

The Executive Board has recommended that Local 301 cooperate again this year with the Red Cross drive. The Board named Vicepresident William Hodges to represent the union in the campaign.

GE Fights Payment For Injured Woman

The General Electric Company is still fighting against paying a Workmen's Compensation award to Mrs. Nellie Vaitulis, now of Brooklyn, who was injured Apr. 5, 1944 at the Schenectady plant. The company has appealed to the Appellate Division from a Workmen's Compensation Board decision in favor of the injured woman. The award totals over \$3,000 disability pay.

Mrs. Vaitulis, who was 43 at the time of the accident, was a member of Local 301 employed as a porter. She was pushing a loaded hand truck weighing over 1,000 pounds when the truck became stuck in a hole. While pushing and pulling the truck, she felt pain in her abdomen and chest. She was treated that day at the plant hospital. Three days later she had to quit work because of the pain.

Although she saw several physicians her condition was not correctly diagnosed for three years. A Schenectady surgeon July 7, 1944 performed an "exploratory operation" which did not locate the trouble. Finally an Amsterdam surgeon operated Jan. 24, 1947, and discovered she was suffering from a hernia. He operated again Feb. 6, 1947 to correct this condition.

Last September a Workmen's Compensation referee decided that Mrs. Vaitulis, whose pay had averaged \$36 a week, should receive \$24.06 a week disability pay for about two months after the first operation and for about five months after she was first treated by the Amsterdam surgeon. After an appeal by Mrs. Vaitulis, the Workmen's Compensation Board liberalized the award by making it continuous, from Apr. 8, 1944, the date she had to leave work, through June 30, 1947. The Board also directed that the case remain open so that a claim can be considered for disability after June 30, 1947.

GE is "self-insured" in the matter of paying Workmen's Compensation claims. Instead of carrying a policy with an insurance company to cover accident cases the way many corporations do, GE pays the damages from its own funds.

Under these circumstances, it's easy to see why GE looks on injury claims with the attitude "This means money out of our pockets."

20 Cent Pay Raise

UE recently won a pay raise of 20 cents an hour at the Ontario Marble Works, Peterboro, Canada.

Challenge GE Secrecy

Local 301 has challenged at the higher grievance levels the company's refusal to permit Board Member Anthony Villano to visit a shop steward at the Campbell Avenue race track on the job. The company based the refusal on the claim that a manufacturing process was being developed which must be kept secret from possible competitors. It said that Villano must meet the steward at the gate house. The union contends that the contract gives the board member the right to visit the stewards at their place of work, for necessary consultation on problems.

Bldg. 76 Skid Gang Grievance Settled

Changes in group sharing rates of the skid gang in Bldg. 76, so that the company now makes up part of the wages of men less than two months in the group, have been negotiated through grievance action. Previously the new men received their piece work earnings out of the total pool.

A general grievance on behalf of the group of 50 men corrected this, and also resulted in additional crane service on the first shift, and payment of necessary waiting time. The men claim that crane service still is inadequate on the second shift.

The grievance was handled by Shop Steward Henry Kaminski, assisted by a shop committee of Vic Cicero, Barney Vandenberg, Ed Mooney, and John Seranack, and by Board Member Henry Busse and the union grievance committee.

Union Fights Cut In Standard Price

On the excuse that the drawing number was different and therefore the job was "new," the company recently insisted on cutting a standard price of \$18.44 on a core diaphragm job in the Steel Foundry, Bldg. 57, to \$13.58. The union has moved the case to the Howell level in the grievance procedure.

The company argued that application of the piece rate table resulted in the lower price. Frank Schaaff of the labor relations office admitted the job was identical with one carrying the higher standard price. He said it was "a standard price that is off the table, and should be adjusted to the table." The union pointed out this was price-cutting in violation of the contract.

Steamfitters Local Seeks Separate Unit

Local 128 Steamfitters and Plumbers Union, AFL, has petitioned the Taft-Hartley Board to set up a separate unit of steamfitters, plumbers and helpers at the Schenectady GE plant.

Since 1937 these workers have been represented in collective bargaining by Local 301, at their own request.

Leon Novak, attorney for UE at the hearing Tuesday before a trial examiner in Schenectady, stated that UE opposes this effort to carve out a section of the plant, on the basis of the collective bargaining history.

GE opposed the AFL petition.

George Pfeif, GE executive, testified that there had been other unions at the plant before Local 301 became bargaining agent in 1936, but that no union had asked for a general wage increase until UE did. He said UE at once sought a general raise.

Keith Rockwell, business agent for Local 128 of the AFL union, testified to the effect that whatever increases the steamfitters obtained were through their own efforts and representation. Even the attorney for the AFL union didn't try to back up that claim, however. He at once told the trial examiner that the AFL group is not claiming that UE did not negotiate for the plumbers and steamfitters.

The case has gone to the T-H Board for decision.

Lost Time, Lay-offs Protested by Union

The Local 301 grievance committee last week continued discussions with the company on the recent difficulties in the Control Division, which have involved a considerable amount of lost time and temporary lay-offs for workers. While agreeing that better planning was needed, the company did not offer any specific assurances. Frank Schaaff of the works manager's office said that considerable effort was being made by supervision to improve the situation. However, complaints to the union over lost time and unsatisfactory conditions have increased, particularly from Bldg. 69.

Board members William Stewart and Sam Scott pointed out that in cases where available work was dropping, supervision in some buildings still was refusing to give workers transfers on their request.

301 Program

Local 301 presents its radio program at 7:30 p.m. every Monday over WSNY.