

## Oakland G.E. Still on Strike

The strike at the G.E. Transformer plant in Oakland, California, which began October 1, continues 100% solid. This strike resulted from an attempt to force an incentive system on the G.E. workers at Oakland, without sufficient guarantees for protection of rates and job conditions.

The latest development is that negotiations have been going on for the past week between the Union and the Company, including Company representatives from Schenectady. The Company is still insisting on its original proposals except for a few minor points. The Company wants an incentive system but has not offered the guarantees which the membership feels are necessary to provide them with reasonable protection.

The Oakland membership has proposed a settlement on the following basis:

1. Protection against speed-up
2. Protection against arbitrary rate cutting
3. Job security for workers who must adapt themselves to changes in production methods

The Oakland strikers are requesting financial help. Local 301 sent a small contribution a few weeks ago. The Local's budget on contributions is limited to a very small figure. If members or groups of members want to send a donation, it should be addressed to: George Daskalos, Strike Chairman, U.E. Headquarters, 5118 East 14th St., Oakland, California.

### G.E. Plant Forms U.E.

Baltimore, Md.—Workers of the Locke Insulator Co. here gave the IUE and the company a decisive defeat at an NLRB election yesterday when they voted for UE by an overwhelming margin.

The vote was: UE, 528; IUE, 184; Neither, 156.

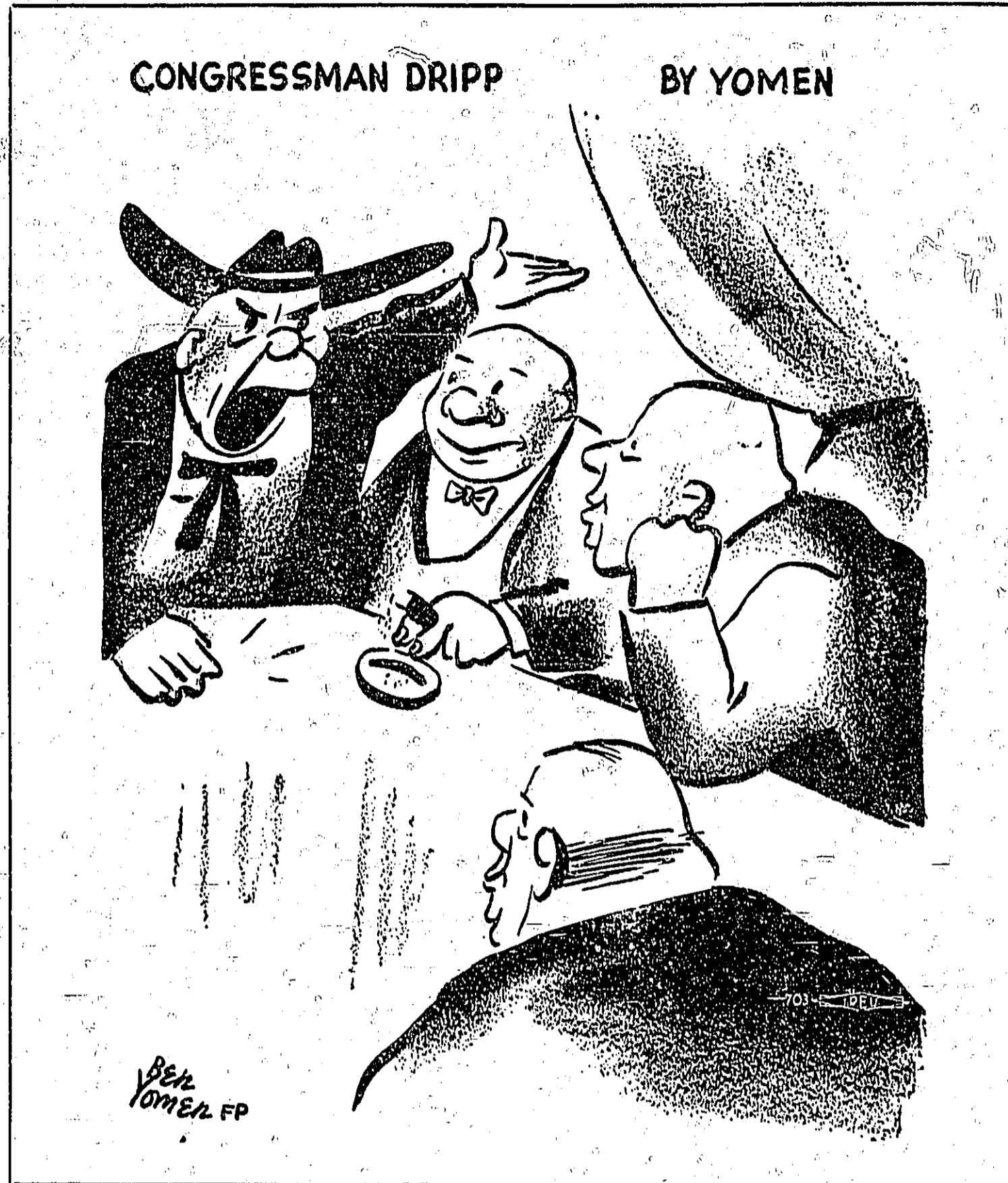
The company is a wholly-owned GE subsidiary whose employees had been represented by the United Construction Workers. Prior to the election the company called special meetings of every shift to try to influence workers against UE. The newspapers and some church officials joined in the smear campaign.

However, the workers pierced the propaganda smoke-screen, understood the record of UE and voted for UE in large numbers.

Sophie Strenka, shop steward in Bldg. No. 10, recently lost her father. UE members extend their sympathy to Sister Strenka.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"Let's pass a law making it illegal for employers to talk to union negotiators."

### Local 301 F.E.P.C.

The Executive Board members will survey their sections for cases of discrimination, and report the facts and circumstances to Local 301 Fair Employment Practices Committee.

In the discussion at the Board meeting, it was pointed out that there are a number of jobs, in the Schenectady plant, that are occupied by women, that carry a low job rate in relation to the rates paid to men for equal skills and responsibilities. In many cases these jobs were formerly done by men.

The Executive Board members are also instructed to check the job status of Negroes, to make sure there has not been any discrimination in upgrading, or job assignment, because of color of the employee.

The Executive Board recommended that the FEPC committee should schedule a regular meeting night for the committee, which would be advertised in the

### Membership Drive

More than 400 joined U.E. Local 301 since January 1st. All stewards have not returned their list of employees as yet. Those who have made returns are receiving records of those individuals who are not members of the Union. The Executive Board member in each section will have a duplicate list of the non-members. It is the hope of everyone that Local 301 will be 100% strong by March 15 when we meet the Company on the wage question. We have been advised that the Erie plant of G.E. is over 90% organized as a result of a recent membership drive. That puts Erie ahead of us. So let's all get busy and sign up those who are not in the Union. We want Schenectady Local 301 properly represented at the wage meetings.

Union paper, notifying the members that they could appear before the committee on any case of alleged discrimination and present their problems.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## U. E. Conference Adopts Wage Drive

Representatives of U.E. Locals from all over the country met in New York City last Sunday for one day to discuss the economic status of our membership, as it affects their standard of living, in the face of price and tax increases with frozen wages. (G.E. Conference Board also held meeting; see separate story.)

A statement was adopted, after considerable discussion, which will be used as a guide in the coming contract negotiations.

1. We must fight any attempts at contract violations in the shop.
2. Out of 1000 contracts covering more than 300,000 workers in our industry, 685 contracts covering 210,000 workers are coming up for renewal in 1951 or re-opening on wages in order to meet the needs of our people contract conditions and wage demands must be settled by the employers in direct collective bargaining.
3. Contracts must be examined to prevent tampering with incentive rates and retiming of jobs, using minor changes to slash rates or reclassify jobs.
4. Job security clauses must be strengthened to prevent employers from violating seniority in layoffs, transfers and hiring.
5. Overtime and work week provisions must be carefully watched against efforts to chisel on overtime or premium pay.
6. Full protection for seniority, pay rights and other privileges for employees drafted into military service.

It was pointed out that workers have a weekly loss in purchasing power of approximately 12.00 per week since the end of World War II. The major corporations in our industry could pay out of profits an increase of 30c an hour and still maintain profits after taxes far higher than they achieved at the profiteering peak of the last war.

Employers must negotiate and enter into agreements with the union to grant such wage increases, subject to official approval, and must be required as parties to such agreements to join the union in demanding that the employer boards

## G. E. Conference Board Draws Up Wage Demands

### Membership and Stewards Hear President Fitzgerald

International President Albert Fitzgerald talked to the stewards and members at the February joint Stewards-Membership meeting. He pointed out that Lynn G.E. workers were preparing for another N.L.R.B. election and he was sure the outcome of that vote would be a U.E. victory.

He explained the deplorable conditions existing in the G.E. plants where the IUE-CIO had bargaining rights.

Fitzgerald also reminded the members present that the U.E. would be condemned by the press, and Government agencies and outside groups will be brought into use against the U.E. during the coming wage campaign. The Union will start negotiations with the G.E. Company on March 15th.

President Fitzgerald challenged anybody to prove any subversive action by our Union against the Government of the United States. He said that the percentage of good Americans in the U.E. would equal that of any organization in the United States. Fitzgerald received a rising vote of thanks by the stewards and members present at the meeting.

in Washington give the necessary approval to whatever wage settlements may have been agreed upon.

We must also fight for:

- a. The elimination of discriminatory rates on women's jobs.
- b. The elimination of inequalities and inequities within individual plants and between plants of the same companies.
- c. The elimination of rates below the grade of common labor.
- d. The adjustment of skilled rates to bring them into proper relationship with other rates.
- e. Added compensation for day workers to bring their rates into line with incentive workers and to compensate them for the additional effort required of them from the generally increased level of productivity.

The General Electric Conference Board held a meeting last Sunday afternoon in New York City following a general conference of representatives from U. E. Locals throughout the country.

The G.E. conference discussed the seniority supplements, which are presently being negotiated in various G.E.-U.E. plants. Certain safeguards were pointed out, which should be made part of the supplement. The Conference Board voted unanimously to press for upgrading on the basis of seniority.

The G.E. Workers are incurring a loss of 32 cents an hour in their purchasing power as a result of the increased taxes. The G.E. workers have increased their productivity during the past five years. The benefits of such increased productivity have gone entirely to boost corporation profits. The G.E. Company is able to grant a wage and salary increase to all of its employees to make up their total loss in purchasing power and still maintain a profit higher than it ever made in the past. The Conference Board pointed out that inequities in craft rates and day work rates must be adjusted. Therefore, the U. E. will reopen the national U.E.-G.E. contract for the purpose of negotiating a general wage increase and adjustment of wage inequalities within the above framework.

A national negotiations committee was elected:

John Nelson	Erie, Pa.
Warren Hover	Niles, Ohio
Lee Austin	Elmira, N. Y.
Sally Smith	Allentown, Pa.
Leo Jandreau	Schenectady, N. Y.
Robert Singleton	Taunton, Mass.
John Piel	Cleveland, Ohio
John McCarthy	Newark, N. J.
Joseph Dermody	N. Y. Office
Joseph Turkowski	N. Y. Office

### Membership Drive

Over 200 more new members were added to U.E. Local 301 last week. New applications are coming in every day. At this rate we will be properly represented by March 15th at the wage negotiations.



## Membership Acts On Shift Overlap

A resolution was presented to the February Stewards-Membership meeting condemning the overlap of shifts in the Turbine Department.

The present schedule of hours is as follows:

- 1st shift—7 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
punch out 3:30 p.m.
- 2nd shift—3 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
punch out 11:30 p.m.
- 3rd shift—11 p.m. to 7 a.m.  
punch out 7:30 a.m.

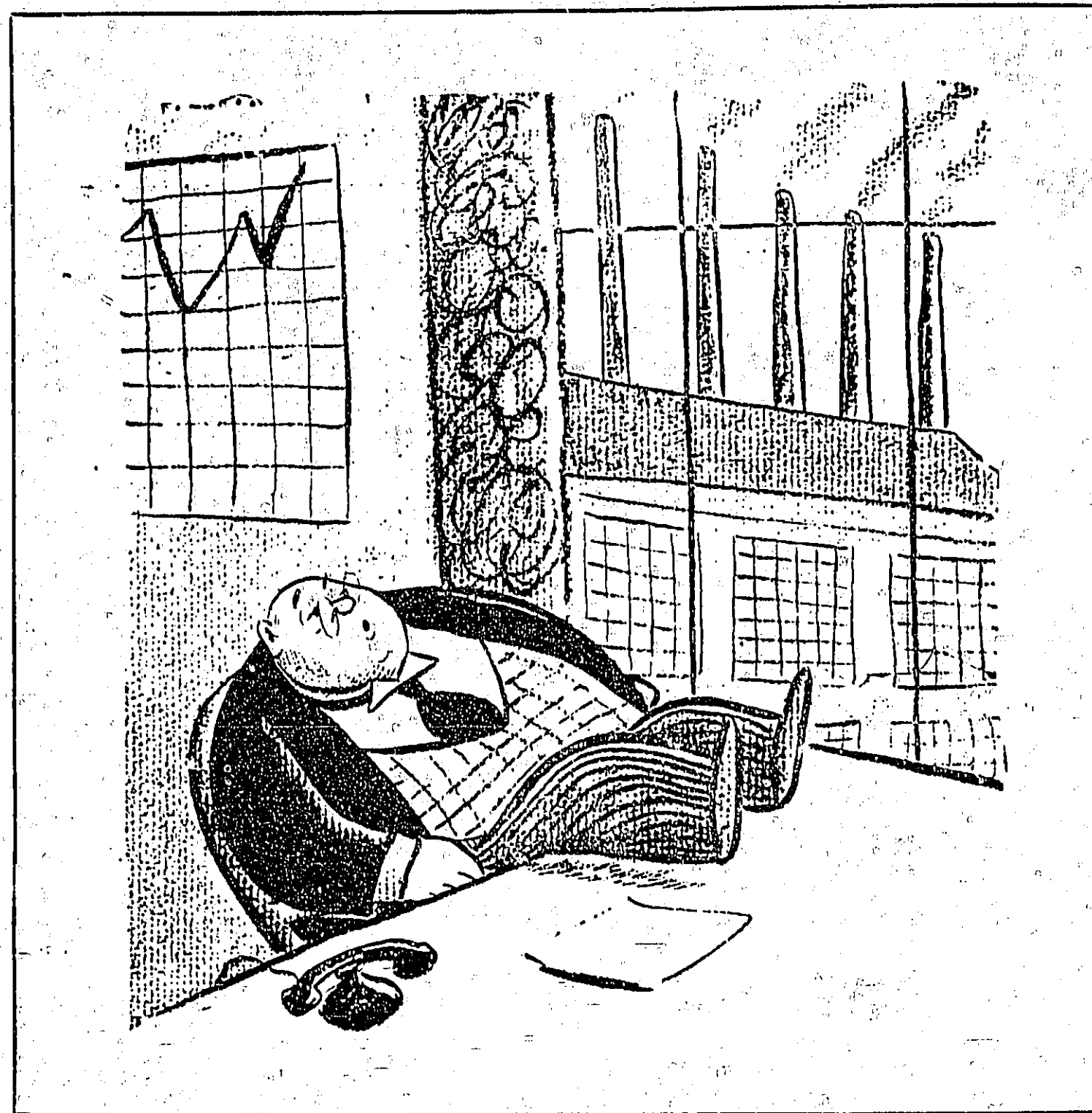
Each shift receives eight hours and equal division of time.

Prior to this present schedule the 1st and 2nd shifts received eight hours and the 3rd shift 6½ hours, necessitating the 3rd shift to work until Saturday 12:00 noon to get equivalent to a forty hour take-out.

It was pointed out by the Business Agent that the paid lunch period proposal by the Union was turned down by the company on several occasions locally. Likewise, it was one of the contract proposals last year, which the Union did not get. The paid lunch period has merit and it is an issue that affects all employees working on multiple shifts. Therefore, the issue should be made at the proper time with the support of all G.E. workers in back of it.

The overlap of shifts was refused by the company for years on a general department basis. We feel that the establishment of the overlap is a move in the right direction and is much more satisfactory than the 7½ hour shifts, which are predominant throughout the company, or the two eight hour shifts and one 6½ hour shift which we had before.

The resolution also carried a condemnation of methods men and rate men's activities in the Turbine Department. President William Kelly pointed out that a committee elected from the shop stew-



"I'm working on a plan to freeze workers' stomachs."

ards in the Turbine Department was handling this question with Mr. Warren, the Manager of the Turbine Division. A report was made to the membership of Turbine on this question at a meeting called in the shop on Friday noon, February 2, 1951.

The resolution was overwhelmingly defeated by a standing vote, with only seven stewards and members supporting it.

### Calls for Blood Donor

Ralph Giello, a U.E. member working in Bldg. 273, has requested aid from the Union in acquiring a volunteer who will contribute a pint of blood.

Ralph's daughter has been ill at the hospital and several transfusions were required. He owes the hospital for one pint of blood.

Any volunteers who are willing to help a fellow member in need should contact William Stewart, Bldg. 273, for arrangements. The Union's policy permits payment of one hour of lost time to those members volunteering blood donations.

IT PAYS TO  
BELONG TO U. E.

### Stoppage — Bldg. 69 — 41 J. Line

A stoppage resulting from a shortage in pay occurred last week in an assembly line. The line was recycled with a proposed increase of production. The foreman called in the girls to explain the increased production set-up and offered them their average earnings for the week. On Friday the girls were short in their pay, with the foreman giving no satisfactory explanation. The line stopped work at 2:30 p.m. demanding the balance of their pay.

The Company agreed to meet with a Union committee on the following Monday. The girls went back to work at 12:30 p.m. on Monday and a committee of three girls along with the shop steward and Executive Board member William Mastriani went to a meeting with representatives of shop supervision. The shortage was restored, supervision saying that some paper work was mislaid. Likewise, a trial period on the new rate of production with additional girls added to the line was worked out and a special price was offered, which was more acceptable to the operators.

## Shop Stewards Sworn In

The following shop stewards for 1951 were sworn in at the February Stewards-Membership meeting, according to Union records. It is a membership ruling that all stewards and officers must take the oath of office or they will be removed from the roles as a representative. All stewards who have not yet been sworn in should be present at the next Stewards-Membership meeting which will take place on Monday, March 5, 1951, at Union headquarters.

### Bldg. Steward

- 10 Leo R. Maloney, A. E. Davis.
  - 26 Doris O'Neill.
  - 10C W. A. Ramsey.
  - 37 Willis P. Boyden.
  - 14 Stanley A. Dule, William Ellis.
  - 16 Paul Giebitz, Joseph Belak, Francis L. Cote, Alphonse La Vallee, John E. Briggs.
  - 17 N. L. Green, Edward A. Iuberdia, R. Northrop, Harold Rollins, Adam Glover.
  - 18 Donald Trager.
  - 40 Bernard Fasulo, Anthony Lolik.
  - 46 Proctor J. Brown, S. Stiles, N. Virgil, Rossiter Lighthall.
  - 50 Stephen Pasquariello.
  - 52 Frank D. Aragona, H. Bayliss.
  - 60 John J. Maietta, Gerald A. Hellijas.
  - 66 Joseph L. Chouinard, H. Giacchino.
  - 53 Guy Cervera, Anthony Esposito, Michael H. Rakvica.
  - 73 H. L. Braid.
  - 77 John Petrozzi.
  - 68 Marion E. Porter.
  - 227 William L. Abbott, Joseph Ferradino, F. P. Thelen.
  - 95 Hans Schott.
  - 101 Joseph Mastroianni.
  - 105 John C. Moczulski.
  - 85 Anthony De Angelis.
  - 93 Leo Grosky.
  - 109 Charles J. Chambers, Ralph Lasher.
  - 59 Edward J. Dondalski, O. Caldwell.
  - 269 Helen Nichols, S. Aldhous.
  - 60 Ernest Johnson.
- Bldg. Trades
- 273 Lawrence Ullman, A. R. Knapp, Roger Markle, James Singleton, Edward L. Kearney, Frank Albert, L. Blumhagen, Alfred Rapka, K. C. Schanz, George S. Crandall, John V. Marinucci, Rodney Bardin.
  - 285 John Ganott.

- 13 William Flansburg, Charles J. Renu.
  - 63 C. D. Ferris.
  - 265 Charles J. Zajan.
- Office Service William A. Cooper, Ida Suprunowicz, Anna Walendziak.

### Cut in Price Draws Stoppage — 73A

A job which was always done in station 404 and carried a 1.61 A.E.R. rate was transferred to station 441 which carried a 1.505 A.E.R. rate. The supervision in Bldg. 73A claimed a change of method was involved. The change consisted of punching two holes at one time instead of punching them individually.

The operators demanded a time study at station 441. The study was taken, and, after waiting several days for a price, the Rate Dept. notified the men involved that they were not satisfied with the time study. They further claimed that there was a P.R. covering that station and the price would be set from this table. A price was offered which was not acceptable and the operators stopped work, with all the piece workers in Bldg. 73A joining in the stoppage. Finally a meeting was arranged and the men went back to work. A price acceptable to the group involved was negotiated.

## Lynn G.E. Workers Sign U. E. Cards

Business Agent Leo Jandreau spoke at a meeting of Lynn G.E. workers and members of U.E. on Sunday, February 4th. Approximately 400 U.E. members were present even though Lynn was blanketed with a 6 in. snow storm, which tied up the city for some time.

U.E. Local 201 officers reported that pledge cards for the coming N.L.R.B. election campaign were circulated throughout the Lynn plant, and Lynn workers were signing up the cards in overwhelming numbers. They pointed out that they had enough of IUE-CIO representation.

The election was lost in the River Works by a very small margin of less than 1000 votes.

Reports from G.E. workers present at the meeting showed that the old standards established by the U.E. in Lynn were practically abolished, and violations of seniority rights and piece work safeguards run rampant throughout the Lynn plants.

Jandreau appealed to the Lynn workers to roll up their sleeves and win the coming N.L.R.B. election so that Lynn can again be with the majority of the G.E. workers at the collective bargaining table. He pointed out that in the past Schenectady, Erie and Lynn were the big three in the G.E. set-up. G.E. workers throughout the country look for leadership in solving their problems from the big three.

### Free Haircuts for Strikers



(Federated Pictures)  
General Electric strikers in Oakland, Calif., wait in line for free haircuts. Woman barber is striker Clara Schlutius while her willing victim is Richard Foster. All are members of Local 1412, United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers.

### ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
WORKERS OF AMERICA

SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301 UE

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