

Local Sustains Peterson Ruling

The 301 membership meeting Tuesday night supported President Andrew Peterson's ruling that a motion calling on union officers to sign Taft-Hartley Board non-Communist affidavits was out of order. The meeting voted 238 to 174 to sustain his decision, after an appeal from the ruling was made by Frank Fiorillo, chairman of the so-called "Democratic Action" group in Schenectady. Vice-president William Hodges took the chair during the discussion and vote. The second shift meeting Wednesday voted by 38 to 3 to sustain President Peterson.

Peterson stated that the motion on filing affidavits violated the policy of the 1947 UE national convention, which had been approved by Local 301, and that such an action would also violate the constitution of Local 301 and of the UE. Both constitutions state there shall be no discrimination against any member for race, color, creed, sex or political belief.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau explained the filing of Taft-Hartley affidavits is not an issue in the GE negotiations, and that members who spread such a rumor are knowingly or unknowingly performing a service for GE against the union.

Jandreau pointed out that a number of the members present had not attended previous meetings. He said he was glad to see so many new faces and urged that members make a habit of attending meetings regularly.

"Then you'll learn about your union and its problems first-hand," he said. "You won't fall for all this stuff that people tell you about your union if you attend the meetings and help run your own union."

A large group left the meeting after the vote on the Peterson ruling, before other union business came up.

Word of Caution

Local 301 members who have turned their Workmen's Compensation cases over to the union's attorney, Marshall Perlin, for free service should cooperate in protecting their claims by heeding the following advice. After first reporting an accident or illness to their foremen or the GE Hospital, they should make no statement to GE compensation representatives about the facts or circumstances of the case, without consulting the lawyer. This advice applies also if they have retained private counsel.



Steelworkers Start Court Fight Against Taft-Hartley Affidavits

The executive board of the United Steelworkers of America voted unanimously May 16 to open a court fight on the provisions of the Taft-Hartley law concerning the filing of non-Communist affidavits. The court case will be brought in connection with a dispute with Inland Steel Corporation.

Authority to start the court action was given to the executive board by the international convention of the Steelworkers at Boston last week. Like the mine workers, printers, UE and many other unions, the Steelworkers have refused to file affidavits.

Challenge Constitutionality

The union's brief charges that the affidavit provisions are unconstitutional because they take away the rights of union officers to freedom of speech, press and assembly, and the right of union members "to elect officers of their own choosing".

The Steelworkers' convention amended its constitution to bar from holding any union office or position any member or "consistent supporter" of the Communist Party or anyone who "actively participates in the activities of the Communist Party."

Other Conventions Actions

The convention also voted: To raise union dues from \$1.50 to \$2 a month.

To extend the term of officers from two years to four years.

To raise the salary of President Philip Murray from \$20,000 to \$25,000; other officers' salaries from \$12,000 to \$15,000; and the 36 regional directors from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

To cut representation at a convention from a delegate for every 100 members to a delegate for every 500.

To support the Marshall plan.

To oppose a third party.

Jandreau to Speak On Contract Monday

Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent and a chief UE negotiator, will report to union members and to the community on the problems of the deadlocked 1948 GE contract negotiations in a radio talk from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday over WSNY.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE

301 Appeals Case Of Alphas Guard

Local 301 has taken to the national grievance level the case of a guard who was given a two-week penalty lay-off. Assistant Police Chief Warren McDowell claimed to have seen the guard getting off a bus in Rexford on a Saturday evening, at a time when he was supposed to be on duty at the GE airport in Alphas.

The guard denied the accusation. Against McDowell's unsupported testimony, the union produced a statement from the bus driver that there was no one on the bus at all at the time. Also, at the very time that the guard was accused of being in Rexford he made his regular duty call, from an inside GE phone, to a desk sergeant who had known the guard's voice for years.

McDowell knew the bus driver personally, and called him in an effort to get him to support his statement that the guard was on his bus. The driver not only denied this, but let the union know about the peculiar phone call from the assistant chief.

Charles G. Marcy, GE supervisor of personnel, backed up the firing on the ground that he trusted McDowell. He changed the penalty from outright firing to the two-week lay-off. When the union objected that there should be no penalty because the evidence supported the guard, Louis Male, general superintendent, refused to change the decision.

Charles Ruff, patrol shop steward, Board Member Charles Ferris, and the union grievance committee argued the case.

Craft Groups Meet On Rate Inequities

Skilled craft groups are meeting now at the union hall to consider action on the company's refusal to negotiate the correction of inequities in their rates.

For the past six months the union has been pressing a demand for negotiation of a complete wage structure for the works, to correct the many rates that are out of line. This was one of the questions to be taken up by Leo Jandreau at a grievance meeting in New York yesterday.

The Building Trades members met at the union hall last night. Meetings scheduled for next week follow:

Tuesday, May 25—Machinists. Wednesday, May 26—Toolmakers.

Thursday, May 27—Welders. All are at 7:30 P.M.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

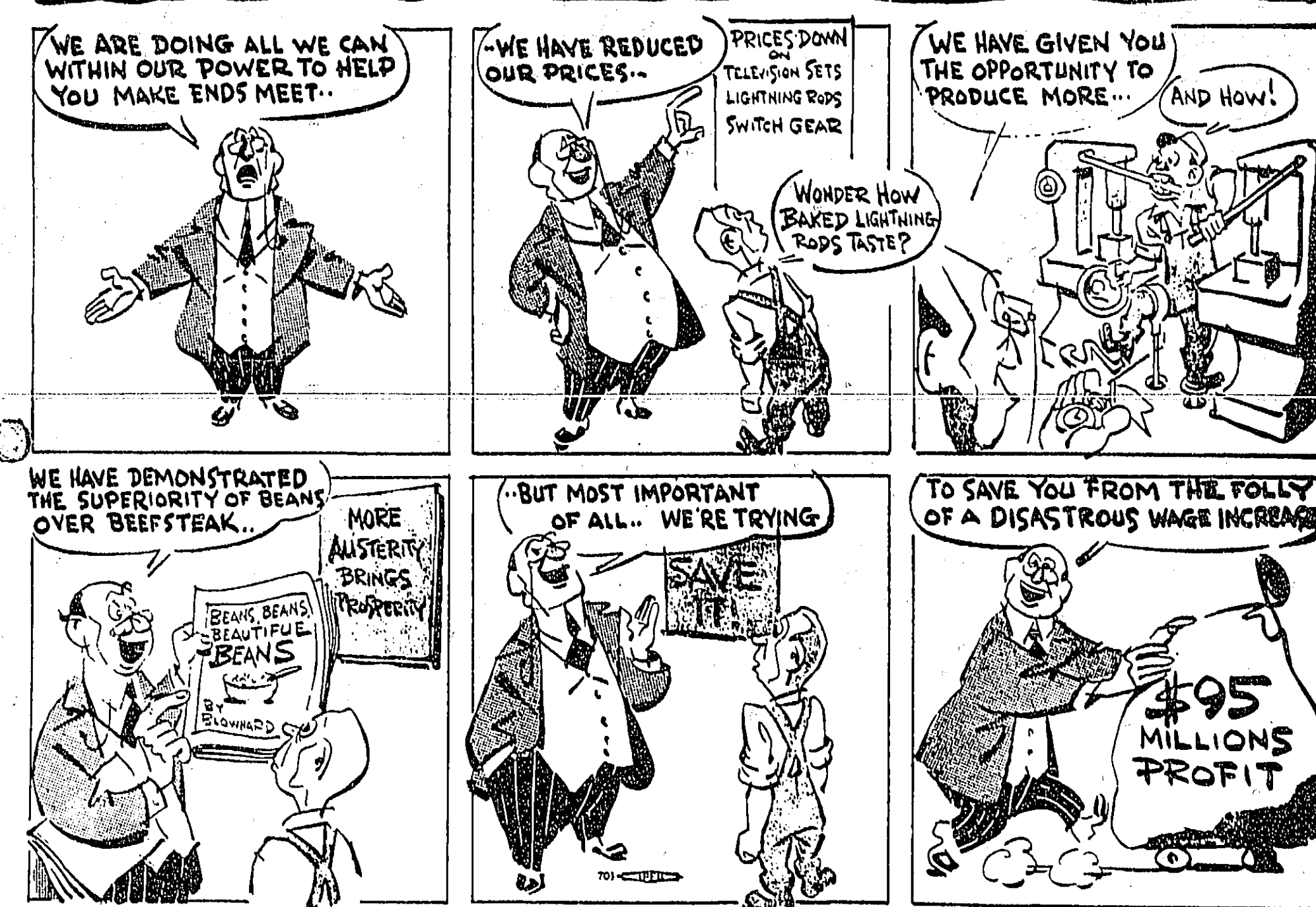
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IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, M'BOY...



District Activities Against Mundt Bill

UE members throughout District 3 this week speeded up their campaign against the Mundt-Nixon bill. Reports received by District President Leo Jandreau showed that practically every local in the district has taken action against the bill.

Local 301, which voted \$1,000 to the fight, cooperated with the Capital District Committee for Democratic Rights in plans for a public protest meeting against the bill scheduled for last night in Schenectady.

Local 302, Jamestown, sent 500 postcards to Washington, telegraphed United States Senators Irving Ives and Robert Wagner and planned a meeting with the Congressman from that district.

Local 307 at Dahlsrom, Jamestown, sent 500 postcards.

Individual letters and postals were sent by 150 strikers at the Durez Plastics, Tonawanda.

Buffalo locals distributed 10,000 UE leaflets explaining the dangers

District Activities Against Mundt Bill

of the bill. Syracuse locals are distributing 15,000 of the leaflets throughout the community.

The Rochester CIO Council passed a resolution introduced by Delco Local 509.

Local 310, Elmira, sent petitions and letters to Washington. Other locals took similar steps.

The big job is to awaken the public to the real meaning of the bill, which threatens basic American liberties. Big Business newspapers refer to it as aimed only at the Communist Party. Actually it places members of every labor union and liberal organization in the country in danger of fines and imprisonment and loss of citizenship.

Trenton Wage Victory

A strike vote by UE workers at the Kramer Company, Trenton, N. J., brought a 13 cent wage package and other improvements. There is an across-the-board raise of 11 cents, plus two cents covering improvements in insurance, vacation and holidays. A seventh paid holiday was added.

GE Still Distorts Facts on Boston

The General Electric Company is continuing to make false statements about the strike of service mechanics at the GE Boston Service Plant.

In a full-page Boulware statement in the Works News, May 21, the company claims that the workers returned Apr. 26 with no promises from GE "but apparently with some illusions supplied them from elsewhere."

And in reference to the fact that the service mechanics went on strike again May 14, Boulware merely said, "some of them are again on strike."

EU News checked again with the Boston strike committee after the Boulware statement. All the service mechanics are still on strike. One man has remained in the shop, but is not doing service work. They are picketing again because the company broke promises made by responsible GE officials, heads of the Boston shop.

Negotiations Resumed By GE and Union

The deadlocked GE wage and contract negotiations were resumed in New York yesterday.

Very much in the picture was the break in the big employers' anti-raise front, when General Motors offered both unions in its plants, UE and the Auto Workers, an 11-cent raise.

UE had requested the new bargaining meeting with GE before receiving the offer from General Motors. So far there has been no sign of an offer from either GE or Westinghouse. General Motors Division is the smallest of the "Big Three" in the electrical field. UE represents 40,000 workers in the five plants of the division, including Frigidaire and Delco Products in Dayton, Ohio; Packard Electric, Warren, Ohio; Delco Appliance, Rochester, N. Y., and Delco Remy New Brunswick, N. J.

Offer Follows Strike Threats

The General Motors offer was made to both unions at the same time, last Friday, after the UE had started to take a strike vote and the UAW had taken such a vote. UAW accepted the offer immediately, subject to membership approval. The UE committee was considering the offer when this paper went to press. It also was negotiating on other contract points.

The General Motors offer included six cents an hour flat, plus a five-cent cost of living bonus, with a provision for cost of living adjustments every three months based on the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics price index. The adjustments could go up without limit if prices go up, and could go down by not more than five cents if prices go down.

Two Year Proposal

The offer also provides for extending the contract two years, with another three cents, not tied to the cost of living, to be added to basic rates after the first year.

The entire labor movement has generally opposed tying wages to the cost of living, because such provisions keep living standards fixed, and do not allow for basic

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Productivity And Profits

The following information on productivity at GE plants was discussed by the shop stewards' meetings of Local 301.

"The company's call to 'produce more' also is an attempt to cover up the fact that GE workers do produce more, because of speed-up and technological improvements, without reward.

"A study of productivity made by the magazine Factory Management and Maintenance in September, 1947, found that there had been an increase of 13.5% in the productivity of workers in the electrical industry in the one and one-half years since January, 1946, and a further increase of 9.6% was expected for the following year.

"GE's own figures show that unit output per worker in the fourth quarter of 1947 was 32% above 1940.

"Thus in addition to increased prices, GE has been getting the benefit of a great increase in production. These two factors account for the tremendous profits, and make a wage increase imperative.

"The failure of purchasing power to keep up with increased production brings on depressions."

UE Wins Raise

On the eve of a strike deadline, UE Local 1114 at Combustion Engineering, Chicago, won a wage increase of 10 cents an hour. The union can reopen the wage question on a 60 day notice to the company.

Election Victory

UE won an election this month at the U. S. Gasket Company, Camden, N. J. A local clergyman conducted the balloting.

Negotiations Resumed

(Continued from Page 1)
wages going up as worker productivity goes up. Nevertheless, the General Motors offer represents a substantial break in the Big Business front of opposition to a wage raise.

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SORRY, OLD TIMER...
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE
YOU ENOUGH TO LIVE ON...
YOU SEE, WE WOULD ALSO HAVE
TO RAISE THE PENSION
THAT CHARLIE WILSON
WILL GET...



GE Pension Board officials told UE pensioners' representatives recently that the company doesn't see how it can raise the lowest pensions, because it would also have to increase the pension rates in the higher levels. Charles E. Wilson is to get a pension of \$5,500 a month on retirement at the age of 65.

Further Information On Jobless Insurance

The new "benefit year" for Unemployment Insurance starts June 7. This is what it means to unemployed people:

If you are receiving Unemployment Insurance benefit checks now, the checks continue without interruption and all you have to do is report as usual.

If you received 26 benefit checks during the past year (the largest number allowed) you can file a new claim June 7.

If you are unemployed, and don't come under either of the above groups, you should file Tuesday, June 1.

The first time anyone files a new claim, on June 1 or later, there will be an extra waiting period amounting to one week before you can start getting credit for "effective days" of unemployment.

Starting with checks paid after June 7, the Unemployment Insurance can be as high as \$26 a week, instead of \$21. The legislature increased the maximum this year.

15 Cent Raise

UE Local 628 has won a wage increase of 15 cents an hour at the E. Keeler Company, Williamsport, Pa.

And the Bosses Laugh

An article in a Canadian Business magazine, the Financial Post, gave a tipoff about how happy corporation offices are about those labor leaders who stir up anti-red hysteria and raid other unions.

The story carried a big headline: "International Battles Against Reds Overshadow Union Wage Drives". There's profit for the bosses in this sort of thing, the financial magazine made it very plain.

Good Progress On Check-off

Local 301 shop stewards got off to a brisk start Wednesday on their three-day job of collecting check-off authorizations in groups they represent.

Many reports about the excellent response of the membership were received at the union office by the time this week's EU News went to press. A number of stewards said they were getting membership applications from non-members, in addition to getting the authorization cards from members.

Boulware Pieces Getting Tougher

GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware's propaganda last week took a more frankly anti-union form, with a "Works News" piece and an advertisement entitled "Check-off . . . Union Membership . . . Strike." The fact is, of course, that there has been no strike proposal so far, and strike talk has been mainly in newspaper statements by the company and in anonymous letters to the editor.

The Boulware piece was loaded with anti-union insinuations.

Boulware suggested that if there was a strike vote, the company should interfere to make sure that the vote was "fairly registered." The company has, of course, often used supervisors to try to influence union elections and other actions.

UE Procedure Democratic

The fact is that if there should be a strike vote, it will be conducted by the members, by secret ballot. The democratic conduct of strike votes in UE was brought out in 1946.

Boulware's piece also went to great lengths to suggest to members that it would be easy for them to withdraw from the check-off. But while arguing that GE workers need not belong to UE, he also thought non-members should vote in the union's affairs. Presumably that is GE's notion of democracy.

The piece further said that dropping out of the union "can no longer cause the loss of a job." Actually the union here has never asked that anyone be fired for leaving the union or being expelled.

Mentions Check-off

Carrying out the usual Taft-Hartley line, Boulware suggested that the check-off cards were the "first interest of the UE-CIO officials." Of course preservation of the union is the main concern of all members. The union committee has placed the main emphasis in negotiations on proposals directly affecting the conditions and security of the shop workers.

Boulware's piece wound up with a threat of "police" in case of a strike.

Leo Jandreau pointed out in his radio report Monday night that instead of talking "in terms of strike and employees' rights," GE would do better "if they tried to work out ways and means of meeting the proposals made by the General Electric employees this year."

The rush to sign check-off authorizations gave Boulware the workers' answer this week.

NAM Propaganda Fund \$5,500,000

The National Association of Manufacturers has announced that it is going to spend \$5,500,000 for publicity in 1948, the greatest propaganda fund in its history.

Its Board of Directors is dominated by a handful of the representatives of the largest corporations in the country including General Electric, Westinghouse, General Motors, International Harvester and DuPont.

The NAM was principally responsible for the propaganda campaign that finally killed OPA. The NAM promised that if OPA were repealed, prices would come down.

The NAM initiated the campaign to explain away huge corporation profits by the phony "percent on the sales dollar" argument.

"NAM lawyers helped draft the Taft-Hartley Law. The NAM is now attempting to sell the law to American workers.

Throughout its existence the NAM has fought against organized labor and social legislation. It is obvious that its present huge propaganda budget will be used to still further enrich big business at the expense of the American people.

Anti-Union Letters Continue in Papers

Although so far there has not been a proposal for a strike, the letters columns of local newspapers continue to carry a stream of letters, always anonymous, attacking the union and offering the usual company arguments to the effect that strikes only hurt the workers.

One such letter signed "Former 301 Committeeman," in the Gazette last week, was filled with fantastic arithmetic trying to show that the 1946 strike cost the workers the loss not only of earnings, but of savings, price increases, and whatever else GE tries to blame on the workers instead of on its own profiteering. However, the real purpose of the letter evidently was the last line, which said that in a strike "Leo Jandreau doesn't lose a nickel."

If the writer was actually a former committeeman or an active member, he would know that statement was a crude anti-union falsehood. In the 1946 strike, not only the 301 paid officials, but also General Secretary-Treasurer Julius Binspak, a member of this local, gave up their salaries for the duration of the strike just like the strikers.

Independent Political Committee Approved

Establishment of a UE Independent Political Committee on a national, district and local basis was approved by the 301 membership meeting last week.

The General Executive Board of UE has adopted the plan in accordance with the 1947 UE convention resolution calling for "creation of an independent political force answerable to no boss or machine and responsive only to the will of the rank and file."

Locals will make their own choice of what candidates to endorse. The membership action authorized setting up the machinery to participate in election campaign and collect funds.

Helen Quirini Appointed On St. Clare's Fund Drive

The Executive Board at its meeting Monday night approved the appointment of Helen Quirini as the union co-chairman of the St. Clare's Hospital fund drive at the GE plant. President Andrew Peterson was named as the 301 representative on the citywide campaign committee.

Sister Quirini addressed 500 campaign solicitors at the Works Restaurant Tuesday. They will start collecting next week. In addition to cooperating with the canvassing of the plant, Local 301 voted this month to donate \$3,000.

Big Bargain

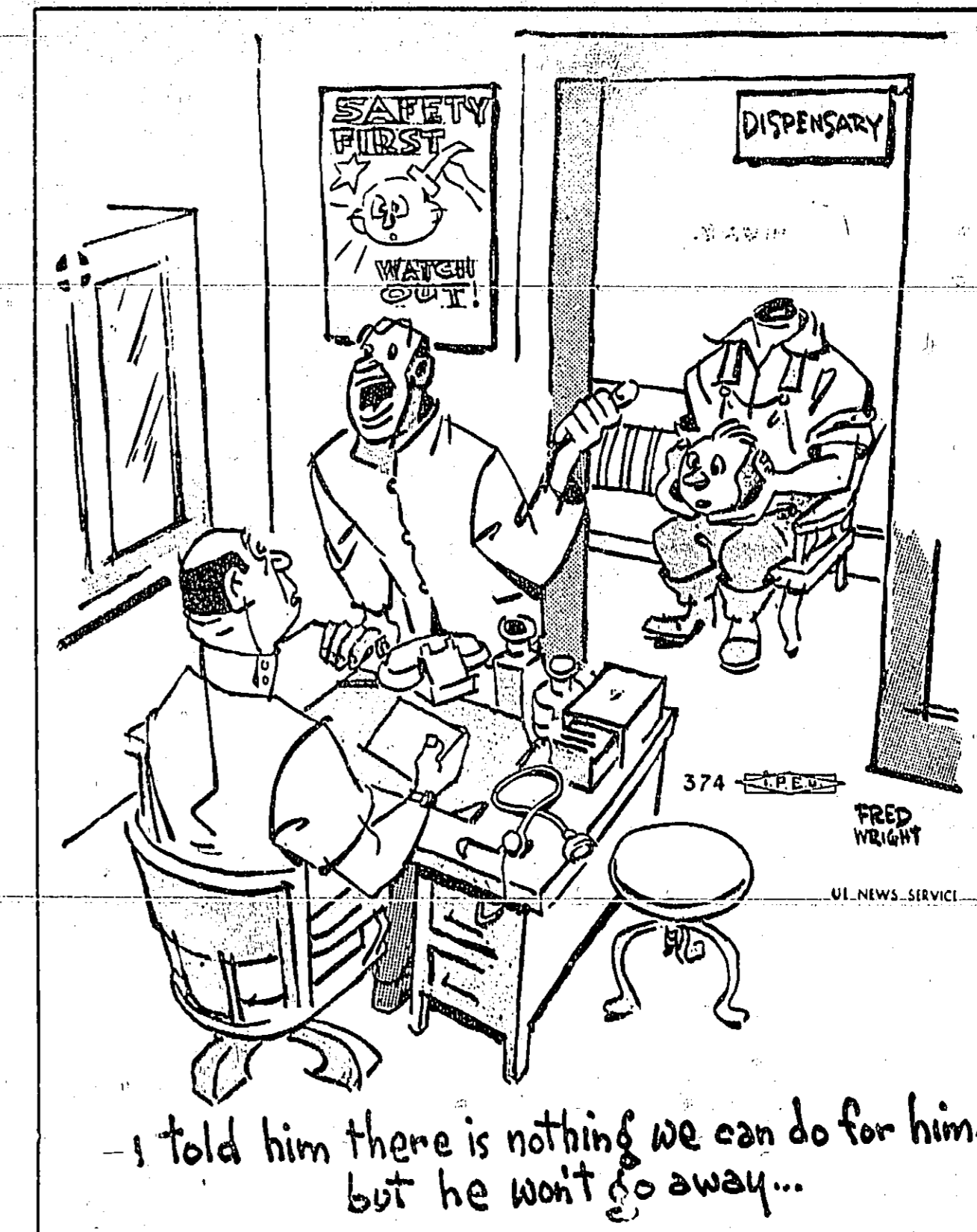
Union members can buy Swerl at the bargain rate of \$3 a case (24 boxes) at 301 hall. That represents more than a 50 per cent saving. There are still 30 cases left from the 301 Food Center. In addition, several other items are still available.

Raise for Mill Man

Through the efforts of Shop Steward J. W. Van Aukin, a Class A mill man in Bldg. 76 is to get a five cents an hour pay increase, effective today. Van Aukin arranged for a shop investigation.

Stewards' Meeting Next Tuesday Night

First and third shift shop stewards will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the union hall and second shift stewards at midnight. The second shift group voted recently in favor of meeting after work, instead of before.



Summer Literacy Tests To Forestall Fall Rush

Literacy tests will be conducted this summer in Schenectady for first voters who want to cast their ballots in the November elections. The tests will be given from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. every other Friday, starting June 4 and ending Aug. 27, at the city education building.

By taking the tests in the summer, voters will avoid a big rush during the four fall registration days. In 1944 over 1,500 persons appeared for tests in those four days.

Blood Donations

The 301 Blood Bank Committee has a new booster, Edward A. Fritzen of Bldg. 12 whose mother Mrs. Anna Fritzen, had to have a blood transfusion at Ellis Hospital recently. Through the union, a volunteer was obtained this week to donate blood, along with Fritzen, to repay the hospital. The volunteer was Walter I. Plummer of Bldg. 60.

Baseball Scores

The Local 301 Women's Softball Team has won two games and lost one, so far this season. The girls will play Field Day.

Starting Rate Corrected For Experienced Welders

Following lengthy grievance action and investigation in Building 40, the company has agreed to correct the starting rate practice for welders.

The grievance showed that frequently experienced welders were given a starting rate of \$1.14 in the Turbine Division, while the contract calls for a starting rate two steps below the job rate. The day work job rate for general welders is \$1.40.

As a result of the grievance, back pay was obtained for several men. The inquiry revealed that two men with long welding experience as GE employees were treated as new employees.

The company said that hereafter a man's claim to substantial welding experience would be checked carefully while in the GE's school, by both the school and the foreman for whom the man is to work. When the check confirms the man's claim, he will receive \$1.30 on leaving school.

The grievance was filed by Shop Steward Salvatore De Pietro. Board Members James Cognetta and Lawrence Schilling served in the joint investigation.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE