

## Skilled Crafts Vote to Continue Refusing Overtime Work



This meeting of skilled craft groups at 301 Hall Aug. 25 protested against the company's refusal to correct the inequities in their rates, and voted overwhelmingly to continue to refuse overtime work. The meeting instructed the steering committee to call for a government conciliator to enter the wage dispute case.

### U. S. Conciliator In Craft Dispute

Federal Conciliator John Rooney of Albany got in touch with Leo Jandreau Monday with regard to the pending skilled craft wage dispute with GE. Later he advised Jandreau that he was trying to arrange a meeting with George Pfeif of the national GE management. He said that Pfeif had to check with Vice-President L. R. Boulware.

The joint craft steering committee met Wednesday night (after this paper went to press) to consider the situation.

In the meantime, the crafts involved in the fight are refusing to work overtime, in accordance with the decision of the craft membership meeting last week. Some shop stewards have been kept busy checking rumors that one or another group of craft workers was accepting overtime. Most of the rumors proved to be false.

A bulletin sent last week by the union office to all shop stewards pointed out that the decision to refuse overtime was made by the craft members themselves, and that "it is the personal responsibility of every shop steward to get craftsmen within his group to comply with this decision."

A meeting of representatives of GE locals to consider action on the craft rate question has been called for Saturday, Sept. 11, the day after the UE national convention adjourns, in New York City. Leo

### Boulware Wants You to Believe Corporations Are Really Controlled by Little Stockholders

An advertisement reprinted by GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware in the Schenectady Works News Aug. 27 tries to disguise the fact that a very few people control the great corporations of America.

The advertisement claims that people with less than \$5,000 a year income are the "real capitalists" in the United States, on the basis of figures (reportedly from the U. S. tax returns), lumping together all dividends, interest and rent.

The July issue of the Economic Outlook, published by the CIO, has some interesting figures which would have been embarrassing to mention in the Works News "ad".

Economic Outlook quotes the U. S. Treasury Department figures taken from income tax return for 1945, the latest available figures.

Income tax returns filed by about 47,000,000 people with incomes of less than \$5,000 showed they received about \$1,063,328,000 in dividends and interest (including bonds as well as stocks). In the \$5,000 to \$10,000 group 1,885,471 people received \$625,912,000. And in the group of \$10,000 and over, there were 754,856 people who received \$2,161,450,000.

Of every \$3 spent in the United States, \$2 goes to corporations. About 5 per cent of the adult population, or less than 6 million people, own stock in corporations. A handful of these 6 million own a

Jandreau and Board Members Charles Ferris and James Cognetta will represent Local 301.

WEAR YOUR UE BUTTON

### Inspection Brings Raise for Leader

A two-step (10½-cent) raise was won for a machine repair group leader in Building 77 last week as the result of a joint union-company inspection of his work.

Previously the company repeatedly insisted that all the work under the man consisted of B machine repair work, and therefore his leader's duties did not entitle him to any more than the two steps above the B rate, or the same as the A rate of \$1.675. The joint inspection was handled by two Class A machine repair men, Sidney Friedlander of Building 17 and James Petraske of 269, along with Board Member Joseph Mangino. They argued that there was A work being done. The company did not admit this, but acknowledged that the group leader's duties were such that he rated a special classification and rate.

### Can't Find a Home

A member of the 301 Executive Board has reported that he may have to resign from the Board and other union activities because he is about to be evicted from his home. The landlord wants the house for his own purposes. The Board member, who is concentrating on home hunting, says nobody seems to want to rent a house or an apartment to a family with four children. If you know of a home he can rent, please notify the union office.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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September 10, 1948

## No Thanks, Mr. St. Louis

### Peterson Opposes City Sales Tax

Because he is opposed to increasing the tax burden of low income groups, President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 has refused to serve on a Schenectady committee to study the advisability of enacting a sales tax or another "permissive tax" in the city.

In a letter to City Manager Arlen T. St. Louis last week turning down appointment to the committee, Peterson wrote:

"I am opposed to any sales tax, any payroll tax and any form of taxation which will add to the burdens of the low income groups which have been hit so badly by rising prices. I believe that the solution of our city's tax problems lies in a determined effort to get the legislature to allocate substantial aid to municipalities out of the state surplus and revenues. Funds available for this purpose can be increased by increasing the income tax on higher incomes."

Peterson also told St. Louis that he believes his view on taxes is shared by the great majority of the people in Schenectady. He said that because of his feelings on the tax question he must "respectfully decline" to serve on the committee to study permissive taxes and the advisability of making use of one or more of them in Schenectady.

The Dewey-controlled state legislature turned down pleas of cities and counties, for increased aid from state funds and instead authorized them to enact sales taxes and certain other taxes.

### 1000 Delegates At UE Sessions

The thirteenth international UE convention opened Labor Day at Manhattan Center, New York City, with approximately 1,000 delegates present. Immigration officials had refused to allow 11 Canadian UE delegates to enter the United States. One of the first actions of the convention was an overwhelming vote to protest to the federal government against this action.

Reports of the general officers showed UE membership at a new high. During the year since the last convention the membership average was six per cent higher than in 1946-47. UE has signed up 120,213 new members, including 23,000 World War 2 veterans, during the year. There are 670,000 employees covered by UE contracts at 1,501 plants.

### Wallace Again Speaker

Henry A. Wallace, Progressive Party candidate for president, who was principal speaker at last year's UE convention, addressed the Monday session.

Praising UE for fighting "for the needs of your members and the rights of free labor," he warned at "you now face a new and a greater fight - a fight to preserve your gains by political action."

At Tuesday's session the convention voted 3,484 to 912 to endorse (Continued from Page 2)

## Judges Man on Acts, Fitzgerald States

UE judges its members by their actions and not their political affiliations or beliefs, President Albert J. Fitzgerald told the House Labor Subcommittee "investigating" UE Sept. 2 at Washington.

"Is your organization concerned about the activities of the Communist party?" he was asked by Chairman Charles J. Kirsten.

"Our job is to be concerned about the welfare of our members and if any member acts against the union or the country we'll take care of him," Fitzgerald replied.

"Suppose the policy (of the union) was dictated by the Communist party?" Kersten demanded.

"I can't accept the supposition because I would not permit it to happen and my organization wouldn't permit it," Fitzgerald said.

"I judge men by their acts, not their beliefs," he said later in his testimony.

The UE president was called to the stand after James B. Carey, CIO secretary-treasurer and former UE president, made red-baiting attacks on UE. Carey even charged that some employers with UE contracts were discriminating against "non-Communists" in dismissals.

Fitzgerald ridiculed this testimony about so-called "Red influence" with employers. He pointed out that the union had to strike 16 weeks against Westinghouse in 1946 and nine weeks against GE.

Chairman Kersten read aloud extracts from the writings of Stalin on Communism and trade unions.

"I'm afraid, Mr. Chairman, you are trying to indoctrinate me," me," Fitzgerald said. "I don't care what Stalin or Lenin said."

Fitzgerald last week issued a statement attacking the motives of the "investigation" which was timed just before the national UE convention was to open. He pointed out that Kersten and Representative C. D. Kearns of the subcom-

## GE Contests Jobless Pay Of Pensioner

Bad working conditions which GE management refused to correct caused Frederick Hemboldt, metal spinner in Bldg. 19, to go on voluntary pension in May at the age of 60. Now GE is fighting his right to receive unemployment insurance payments from the state while he looks for a new job. Hemboldt had worked 23 years for the company.

Metal spinning is a highly skilled craft, and there are only two men doing the work now in Bldg. 19. One of them testified with Hemboldt and with Shop Steward Sidney Friedlander of 19 about the objectionable working conditions at a hearing last week before an Unemployment Insurance Division referee. The other metal spinner was also present to testify if necessary. Marshall Perlin, Local 301 attorney, represented Hemboldt.

### General Foreman Testifies

GE produced as a witness General Foreman Max Thybault who claimed conditions "weren't too bad."

The referee reserved decision on the case.

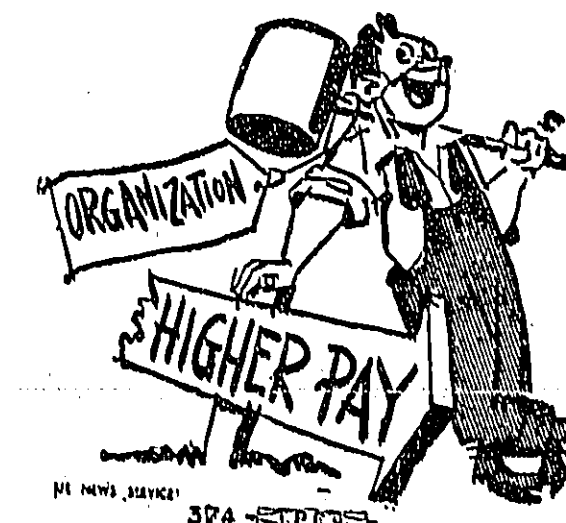
Working conditions were fairly decent until 1940, according to Hemboldt, when the metal spinners were transferred to a small, overcrowded room in Bldg. 19. He complained of dust, fumes, bad ventilation and poor lighting.

### No Action on Complaints

Hemboldt said that because of the importance of his work he stayed on the job during the war, in spite of the working conditions. When he complained about the conditions at that time he was told improvements would have to wait until manpower and materials were available. Last spring when he renewed his complaints, he was informed the improvements couldn't be considered for about two years. He told the company he would have to give up the job at once, if the conditions weren't corrected.

On leaving GE, he filed for unemployment insurance and gave (Continued on Page 2)

mittee both have been opposed by UE in political campaigns. The hearings were adjourned till Sept. 28.



## 1000 Delegates At UE Sessions

(Continued from page 1)  
no candidate in the presidential election, but to uphold the right of UE members to "work for the advancement of the new Progressive Party, or any other political party." (See resolution on page 4).

### Raiding Condemned

The convention—Tuesday also passed a resolution condemning raids by CIO unions on UE and other CIO unions. The resolution demands that the national CIO forbid such raids and withhold financial support from raiding unions.

By an overwhelming vote, the convention Wednesday went on record condemning James B. Carey of Local 101 for joining with the Hartley committee "to defame the UE" and "to help these enemies of the union and of all working people to gain the widest publicity for their attack."

Carey, CIO secretary-treasurer and former UE president, was a delegate to the convention. He attacked the union leadership and policies last week in testimony before the Hartley committee in Congress.

### 301 Delegates

Local 301 delegates to the convention were Julius Emspak, UE general secretary-treasurer; 301 President Andrew Peterson; Vice-President William Hodges; Business Agent Leo Jandrea; Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani; Recording Secretary Helen Quirini, and Board Members William Stewart, Charles Ferris, James Cognetta and Dewey Brashear.

Officers had not been elected when this week's issue of EU News went to press. The convention was to close today (Friday).

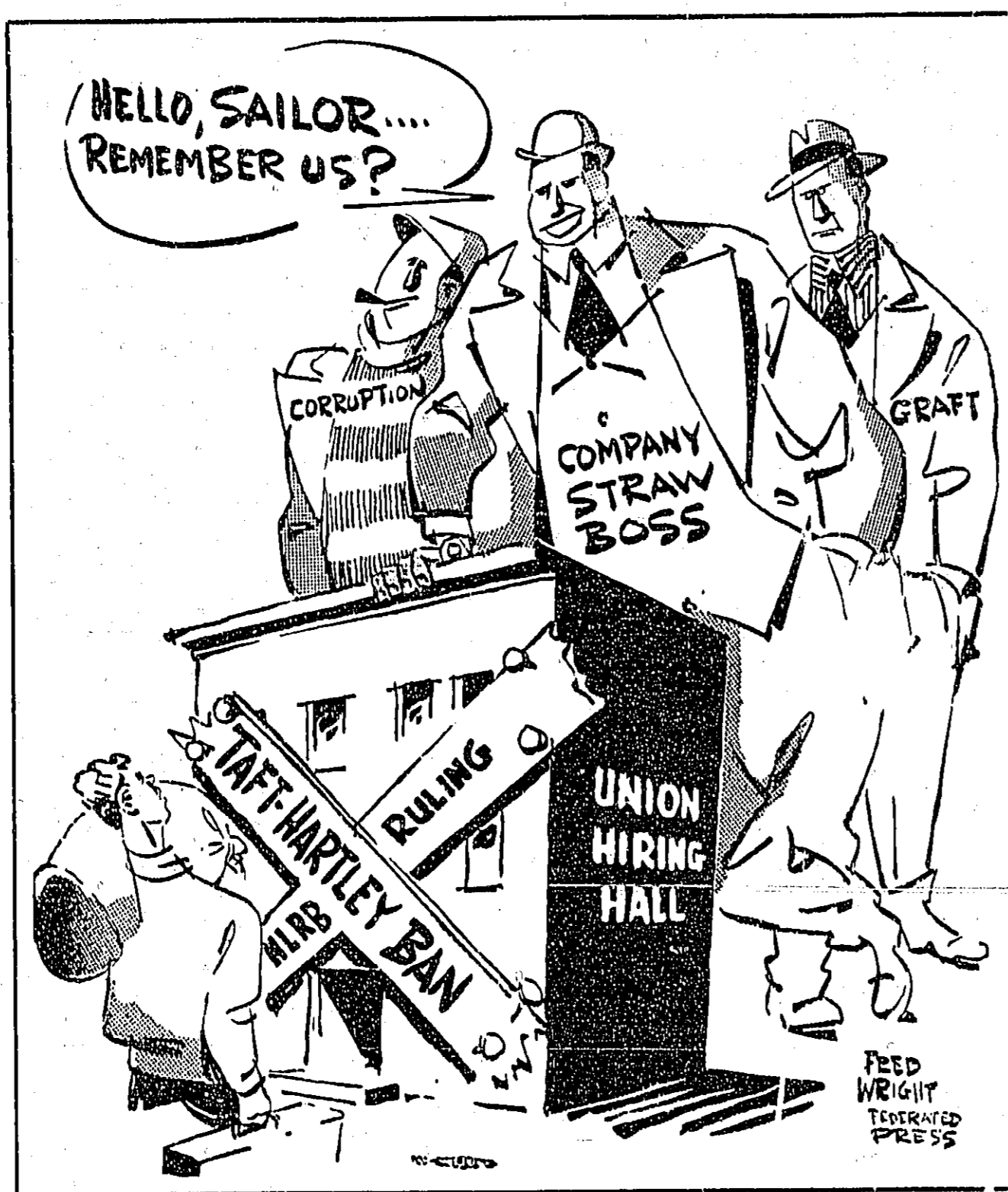
### \$25 for Children

The 301 membership and stewards' meeting Aug. 31 voted \$25 to the Maria S. S. Della Libera Society of St. Anthony's Catholic Church for a festival for the benefit of Sunnyview Children's Hospital, Schenectady.

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(The Taft-Hartley Board has ruled unanimously that the hiring hall of the National Maritime Union is illegal. Before the union secured the hiring hall clause in its contracts, seamen were at the mercy of grafting, anti-union straw bosses when they tried to get jobs.)

## GE Fights Pensioner On Unemployment Pay

(Continued from page 1)

bad working conditions as the cause of his giving up his job. He registered as available for a new job. If the improvements were made in Bldg. 19, he said, he would be glad to return to his old work.

The Unemployment Insurance Division ruled he was eligible for unemployment insurance, without any additional waiting period, but GE appealed the ruling.

Large corporations like GE have a financial stake in keeping down the number of their employees receiving unemployment insurance. The fewer GE names there are on the unemployed list the bigger the company's share can be in the huge rebate which the Dewey-controlled legislature voted to give employers.

### Proctor Forces Strike

Members of UE Local 136 went on strike at the Proctor Electric Company, Philadelphia, Aug. 20, in protest against the company's refusal to grant a wage increase and its proposal for allowing rates to be cut. Contract negotiations had been dragging on since April.

## UE's Fighting Record Praised by Wallace

"You have won many great battles against reaction because your organizers and members have not been intimidated," Henry A. Wallace, Progressive Party candidate for president, told the UE convention Monday.

"You have built a strong organization, because you did not give up a fight.

"But now you face a new and a greater fight—a fight to preserve your gains by political action."

He outlined the anti-labor legislation that has been enacted since the death of President Roosevelt, and condemned the use of injunctions against strikers.

Referring to the fact that UE President Albert Fitzgerald was called before the House Labor subcommittee last week, Wallace said:

"I read that a group of Congressmen tried to gang up on him and incited the throwing of some rotten eggs. Even though they were only verbal eggs, we worried about Fitz all alone in Washington exposed to the hostility of a crowd of Congressmen.

"I knew Fitz would handle them with his usual good humor and fighting spirit. But egg throwing is dangerous. It spreads like a disease. You don't know who will be caught up in the mob hysteria. And you don't know who the next victim will be."

Wallace said the UE was under attack "because you fought for the needs of your members and the rights of free labor, as you have fought for them with courage and determination from the very first."

## Carey Didn't Volunteer, But Try and Stop Him

Newspapers gave a big play to the "refusal" of James B. Carey, CIO secretary-treasurer and former president of UE, to accept an invitation of the House Labor Subcommittee to testify in its "investigation" of the union. He wouldn't testify till a subpoena was served on him.

But once he'd built up this record of not appearing voluntarily, he got along fine with Representative Charles J. Kersten and his committee members. He took the opportunity to make a typical Carey-Block attack on the union and its officers.

Troy; Saratoga County-Mechanicville and Saratoga Springs. You can enroll in a political party when you register in these places. In the towns, however, you enroll on election day.

## Farmer Not Getting Those Food Profits

The cost of buying food for a family reached a new high in June, figures from the U. S. Department of Agriculture reveal. The increase in expenditure for food during the first half of 1948 was greater than for all other goods and services, and was more than the increase in average income.

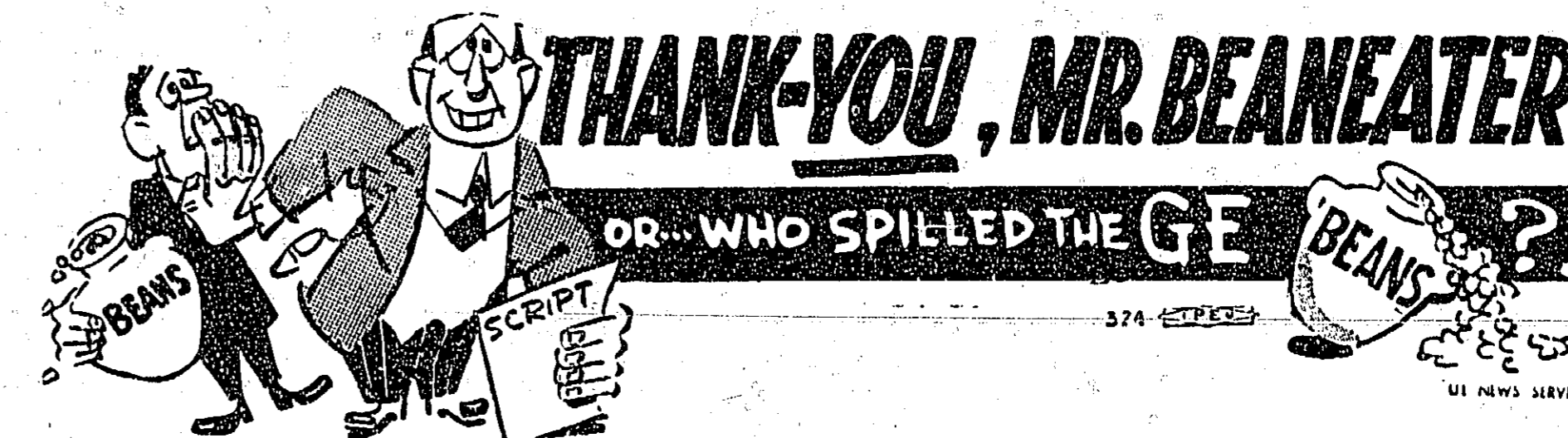
But the farmer has not benefited from these sky-high food prices, the federal figures show. The government report provides an interesting answer to Big Business propaganda that farmers are to blame for the food costs.

In June the farmer was getting only 51 cents of the consumer's food dollar as compared with 55 cents last January. Most of the remainder went to the middleman, —railroads, chain stores, packers and food profiteers.

The Agriculture Department figured out the mounting cost of farm food products purchased during a single year by a family of three. Such a "market basket" cost \$317 in 1940 and rose to \$628 in 1946. It climbed to \$695 by January, 1948. After a slight wobble last spring food prices went still higher, to a new record, in June. The \$705 June cost of the family "market basket" was 15 per cent higher than the peak after World War I. In those notoriously high-price days the same food was \$615.

Of the \$705 for farm products paid by a family of three members in June, only \$359 went to the farmer. The middlemen got \$346.

The "market basket" figures are based on a family of three, but the average American family is usually figured as four. So the average food cost is even higher than \$705.



Newspaper Item: General Electric Company this week will present to supervisory personnel in its Schenectady home office the first performance of its company-developed "theatrical show," covering efforts to improve employee and community relations, L. C. Bulwark, vice president in charge of employee and community relations, disclosed last week. . . . The "show" will be divided into six "acts," Mr. Bulwark stated.

By BILL CAHN  
National UE News Staff Writer

Because we know just how busy General Electric executives are, we hereby take the liberty to offer a few suggestions for GE's theatrical show which is to be shown in 125 GE plants before some 25,000 GE supervisors and selected personnel.

"Act One:—The first act of this show we suggest should explain in simple, graphic style how the typical GE worker feels after he has celebrated eating his 100,000th



bean, following GE's advise to "eat beans" and thus ignore the rising cost of meat. Perhaps the show might start with an award—a pot

of beans — being given to Mr. Beaneater of 1948.

GE Master of Ceremonies: And now let me present the Wilton award of the year, a pot of beans, to Mr. Beaneater of 1948 who is the first GE employee to eat his 100,000th bean. Congratulations Mr. Beaneater!

(cries from offstage from various foremen and time-study experts) Speech, Speech, Speech!

Mr. Beaneater:—Thank you for this unusual honor, gentlemen. But I must admit that I really don't deserve any credit for winning this award.

L. C. Bulwinkle:—As public relations expert for GE, Mr. Beaneater, let me assure you that the company is grateful for your beaneating record. You have been loyal to the company and the company remembers those who have served it faithfully. In addition to the pot of beans which you have won, we are also adding to your award a case of ketchup to go with your beans.

(loud applause and cries of "good old Bulwinkle, he always remembers!" from the various foremen, time-study men and unemployed GE executives who are in the wings.)

Mr. Beaneater: — Thank you Mr. Bulwinkle. It is typical of GE that it remembers me with a case of ketchup at this time. In eating my first 100,000 beans, I must admit, there were occasions when I stopped and wished for a little ketchup to flavor my diet. But I consulted the various newspaper advertisements, pamphlets, leaflets, shop papers and comic books that the company had made available to me approximately two a day, and nowhere could I find permission to flavor my beans with ketchup. So I ate my 100,000th bean unflavored and unlubricated.

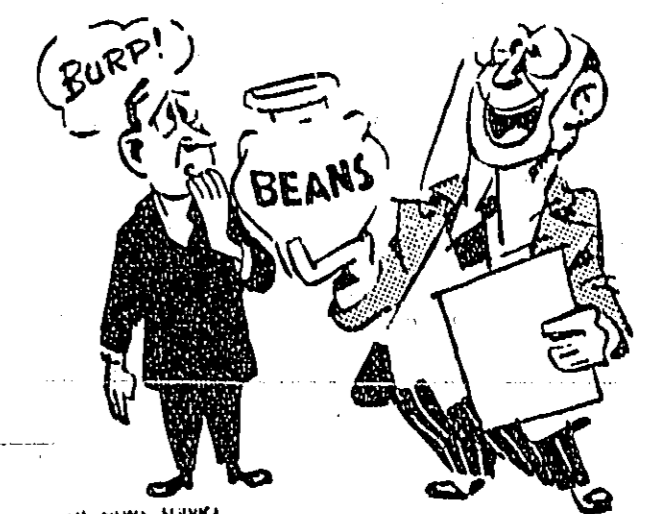
Mr. Bulwinkle:—I want you to know, Mr. Beaneater, that the

company appreciates your sacrifices in this matter and will not forget it.

Mr. Beaneater:—There is, however, one point I must confess before I accept these lavish gifts which the GE company has with customary generosity bestowed upon me.

Mr. Bulwinkle:—Can it be that you have not quite reached the 100,000th bean mark?

Mr. Beaneater:—I must confess gentlemen, that I did not eat beans entirely because the company had advised me to do so. The fact is that after I had paid my rent and electricity and shoes



For my kids, I found that I had just enough money left to buy beans . . . I am in fact Mr. Beaneater of 1948 only because GE pays wages which make pork chops impossible . . .

(There is a gasping and moaning from the assembled foremen, time study men and executives as the curtain falls.)

Of course this is just a suggestion for use in the opening "act" of a GE six-act "show." If the company finds this of value, we would be happy to outline a few more of our ideas.

### Chicago Contract

Pay increases of 10 to 17 cents an hour are provided in the new one year contract UE has signed with the Warwick Manufacturing Corporation in Chicago.