

Helplessness of Craft Unionism Shown by Defeat of Steamfitters

The AFL steamfitters went back to work Monday, after an eight-week strike ending in complete defeat.

Once more Schenectady GE workers received direct and simple proof that craft unionism is helpless in a great industrial plant.

The steamfitters went back on the basis of a wage raise which had previously been given to the UE here and in other plants without even the beginning of a fight this year, just because of past UE activity. The 10½ cents received by the steamfitters consisted of the one-step raise offered to most of the other crafts here and in other plants last month, plus the 3 per cent raise now added.

In the past GE has broken craft strikes partly because other workers were willing to do some of the strikers' work. This did not happen this time, because UE organization and union solidarity kept workers from scabbing on the steamfitters. Foremen and engineers did a little steamfitters' work.

The company broke the strike by arranging to ship turbines without final test. This also constitutes a serious danger to steamfitters' jobs in the future.

The strike showed that when one craft strikes alone, no matter how important is its work, the company can always make some arrangement to take care of that particular work.

In addition to the hardship for the strikers, the steamfitters' action hurt thousands of GE workers. It caused a lot of hard feelings among workers who should be united in the demand for better working conditions.

The steamfitters' union leadership ignored repeated invitations from UE 301 for joint action in the fight against GE for correction of craft rates, and other contract conditions.

Peter A. Monzo

Peter A. Monzo, a UE-301 member since the early days of the union and for several years a shop steward, died Saturday at Glenridge sanatorium after an illness of nearly a year. He was a punch press operator in Building 285 at the time he had to stop work because of his health, and was previously in Building 53 and 17. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Camille Monzo, 1162 Hildebrandt Ave., Schenectady; two sons, six daughters, his mother, a brother, four sisters and four grandchildren.

Ethelma Mahoney Wins \$50 Prize

Winner of the \$50 prize at the drawing at the combined membership and shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night at the UE 301 hall was Mrs. Ethelma Mahoney, Building 109.

Clarence Wienclawski of Bldg. 273 won the \$25 prize; William Borello of Bldg. 273 won the \$15 prize and William A. Kaiser of Bldg. 46 won the \$10 prize.

As announced in last week's EU News, only members whose dues for June had been received by the union office were eligible for prizes. Because their dues weren't in, two members whose membership book numbers were drawn missed out on the \$50; one missed out on the \$15 and one on the \$10.

For a member to be eligible for prizes at the drawing at the August meeting, his dues for July must be in the union office. It is important, therefore, that shop stewards turn in dues collections promptly. Members do not have to be present at the meeting to be eligible.

UE Wins Raises At Durez Plant

UE Local 312 at North Tonawanda, N. Y., has won additional wage increases, ranging from 4 cents to 8 cents an hour, at Durez Plastics and Chemical Company, Inc., on top of the 4½ cent general wage raise negotiated last September.

The new agreement also provides that the company pay for life insurance policies including double indemnity for accidental death and dismemberment.

Surgical and hospital benefits and weekly sickness and accident benefits are continued, with full cost of this insurance paid by the company. The contract added a provision for payment of time lost in connection with medical examinations and medical care in cases connected with the employees' work.

The one-year contract became effective July 6.

Have You Paid Your UE-301 Dues?

A Group from Bldg. 85 at 'Section Night'



A poker session was one of the attractions at the "Section Night" party that workers from Building 85 had recently at UE 301 hall.

IUE-CIO Lawyers Get Fees from Jobless Pay

National Union Radio workers at Newark, N. J. had to pay fees to IUE-CIO lawyers out of the sorely needed unemployment insurance they got for their five months on strike.

This came as quite a blow to the workers, who were already especially hard hit financially. Many of them had to go on relief during the strike because they couldn't get any financial aid from the CIO. And they have taken wage cuts, as high as 25 cents an hour, as a result of the sell-out strike settlement deal which IUE leaders made with the company.

UE District 4 learned of the fee arrangement for the IUE-CIO attorneys when a National Union worker came in with a copy of a letter he received from the New Jersey Division of Employment Security. The letter informed him his unemployment insurance checks had been sent to a CIO law firm which was authorized "to charge a counsel fee for each individual represented."

"I went down to the lawyer and paid him a fee, then I got my check," the worker said. "It seemed awfully strange to me to have to pay a union for unemployment insurance—it never happened in UE."

Did You Know?

The General Electric Company is among the 55 corporations which are in the "Billionaire Club"—meaning that it has more than a billion dollars in assets. Biggest of all is the Bell telephone system, with over 10 billion dollars. Following closely is Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

\$2,592 Award For Foot Injury

A workman's compensation award of \$2,592 has been won for Alexander Jamieson, Building 53 toolmaker, through the UE 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin. Jamieson suffered 45 per cent loss of the use of his left foot as the result of an accident July 8, 1949.

Other awards which GE must also pay, as a result of claims pressed through the union lawyer, include:

\$400 to Clealand Haight, Bldg. 49E fire patrol, for a facial scar resulting from an injury last Nov. 16.

\$348 to Bert Anun, Bldg. 285 drill press operator, for an injury to his right middle finger July 5, 1949.

\$275 to Ronald Dzikowski, Bldg. 273 crane follower, for a facial injury last Sept. 17.

\$250 to Ralph Giardona, Bldg. 24 maintenance and general repair, for a facial injury last Oct. 11.

Approve Committee To Aid Little League

The Executive Board's action in appointing a committee to cooperate with the Schenectady Little League was approved by the joint UE 301 membership and shop stewards meeting this week. The committee consists of James Cognetta, George Roode, Joseph Mangino, William Mastriani and Anthony Esposito.

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

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GE-UE Negotiations Are Deadlocked

Toolmakers to Vote In Run-off July 28

Toolmakers will vote next Friday, July 28, in an NLRB run-off election between UE Local 301 and the International Association of Machinists. All voting will be on company time, at the firehouse and at specified times at Knolls I, Campbell Avenue and Alplaus.

Voting arrangements were worked out in a meeting in Building 41 Tuesday.

UE ran first in the three-way contest May 25, but was short of a clear majority.

The broad committee of UE toolmakers met Tuesday afternoon and made plans for a final campaign to roll up a big UE majority.

All members of the committee ported a strong and steady swing to UE 301 among the toolmakers. They said that recent events had convinced most of the toolmakers that they must stay united with the rest of the plant in UE, the certified winner in the NLRB vote for the plant.

Committee members mentioned particularly the following factors:

Old-timers knew that a craft union is helpless, because of the defeat of the molders' strike in 1920. Now the steamfitters' defeat let the younger men see for themselves that only an industrial union is effective. The steamfitters in their 8-week strike obtained only the one-step plus the 3 percent adjustment which UE was given here and in other GE plants without even the beginning of a fight.

Recent lay-offs out of toolrooms have shown toolmakers the importance of being able to exercise seniority rights on jobs other than toolmaking. If the toolmakers had a separate IAM contract, they would lose all rights on many good machine and assembly jobs which they can take now.

IAM's fancy promises of what they will do for toolmakers become ridiculous when toolmakers look at the miserable failure of the IAM in Fort Wayne, GE, where it has represented the toolmakers for years, in contrast with UE's achievements for toolmakers here.

Long Overdue Check-off Money Expected Soon

UE Local 301 and other UE locals which won in the NLRB election in GE plants May 25 are expected to receive shortly the check-off money withheld by the company when it claimed to be in doubt as to whom the money belonged to, because of IUE-CIO raiding and claims.

Westinghouse Strike Victory Won by UE

Complete victory was scored by the 6,000 strikers at the Westinghouse plant at Essington (South Philadelphia) last week when the company agreed to UE Local 107's demand that all former contract conditions be reinstated. They are to remain unchanged unless altered in later negotiations.

This means that the full shop steward set-up and grievance system continues with recognition by the company of the stewards, the general committee and the business agent. The 17-day strike was called because the company violated an interim agreement on grievance procedure and barred from the plant the UE general committee and business agent.

The UE victory at Essington is a striking contrast to what happens at IUE-CIO Westinghouse plants where workers walk out or engage in slow-downs over local issues. The national IUE leadership orders them to go back to work and tells them that the company has agreed to negotiate the disputes, when actually all the company is doing is continuing to meet in national negotiations. So the workers go back with no settlement of the local issues.

For instance, Westinghouse workers at Springfield, Mass., an IUE plant, ended a week slow-down recently without any agreement on retaining the old UE stewards' system.

11 Cent Raise

A general pay increase of 11 cents an hour was won by UE workers at the International Molding Machine Company at Chicago on a wage reopener. The settlement also included increased insurance benefits.

Plant Gate Meeting Here Next Week

Days and weeks of patient negotiation have not budged the General Electric Company from its demand that the old UE contract provisions be weakened or destroyed in major respects.

Leo Jandreau reported this deadlock after bargaining sessions had been held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning this week.

GE Trying to Weaken Contract

On Monday and Tuesday the negotiators went again over the disputed contract provisions. The UE committee declared it would accept nothing less good than the old contract clauses. The company committee talked of clearing up this or that paragraph or revising some proposed clause, but it all added up to the changes previously reported, which would enable the company to take away from the workers several times the cost of its wage, pension and insurance offer.

The UE 301 Executive Board was to meet last night (Thursday) to set the time of the plant gate meeting ordered by the July membership and shop stewards' meeting. Jandreau will give the plant gate meeting a first hand report.

Erie Calls for Strike Vote

Last week the membership of UE Local 506 in Erie, second largest GE plant, voted to call upon the national negotiating committee to conduct a strike vote of all UE locals in GE after the vacation shutdowns are over. This followed earlier action by 301 calling for a strike vote here about Aug. 15.

On Wednesday the UE national negotiating committee told the GE what was wrong with its pension and insurance offer. UE took the position that the minimum pension should be \$125, to be increased if Social Security goes up, and that both pensions and insurance should

(Continued on page two)

UE Shop — 101 to 1

Workers at Bronson Reel Company, St. Joseph, Mich., voted for a UE union shop, 107 to 1.

Is Your Number On This List?

The UE 301 office has a list of membership book numbers for which dues have been received, but for which names were not turned in. The list is printed below.

Any member who recognizes his book number on the list should notify the union office at once. So should any shop steward who recognizes a number belonging to anyone in his group.

The unidentified numbers are:

751	8233
2259	8527
2387	8677
2388	8872
2398	8873
2400	9013
2531	9075
2956	9141
2958	9446
3037	10193
3256	10319
3270	10989
3656	11002
3920	11012
4170	11016
4172	11916
4202	12072
4205	12285
4469	12296
4579	12297
4582	12877
4782	12878
4785	12879
4786	12881
4787	12882
5456	12883
6495	12885
6546	12886
6547	12887
6775	12888
6851	12889
6855	12890
6897	12892
7387	12893
7755	12899

GE-UE Negotiations Still Deadlocked

(Continued from page one)

be paid for in full by the company.

Another bargaining session was arranged for Monday, but at the present time there is no indication of a change in the company's position. Here are some of the things GE wants to do to the old UE contract:

1. Destroy piece work guarantees.
2. Take away the union's right to negotiate wage rates.
3. Weaken plantwide seniority and open the way to destroy it.
4. Make it possible to take away time and a half for Saturday and double time for Sunday as such.
5. Compel workers to work overtime whenever the company says so.
6. Take away holiday pay if a worker refuses to work on a holiday when asked to do so.
7. Clamp down on union activity and grievance procedure.
8. Prevent arbitration of unsettled grievances.
9. Take away benefits won by UE outside the contract and now recognized in local understandings.
10. Tie up and weaken the union through a five-year contract.

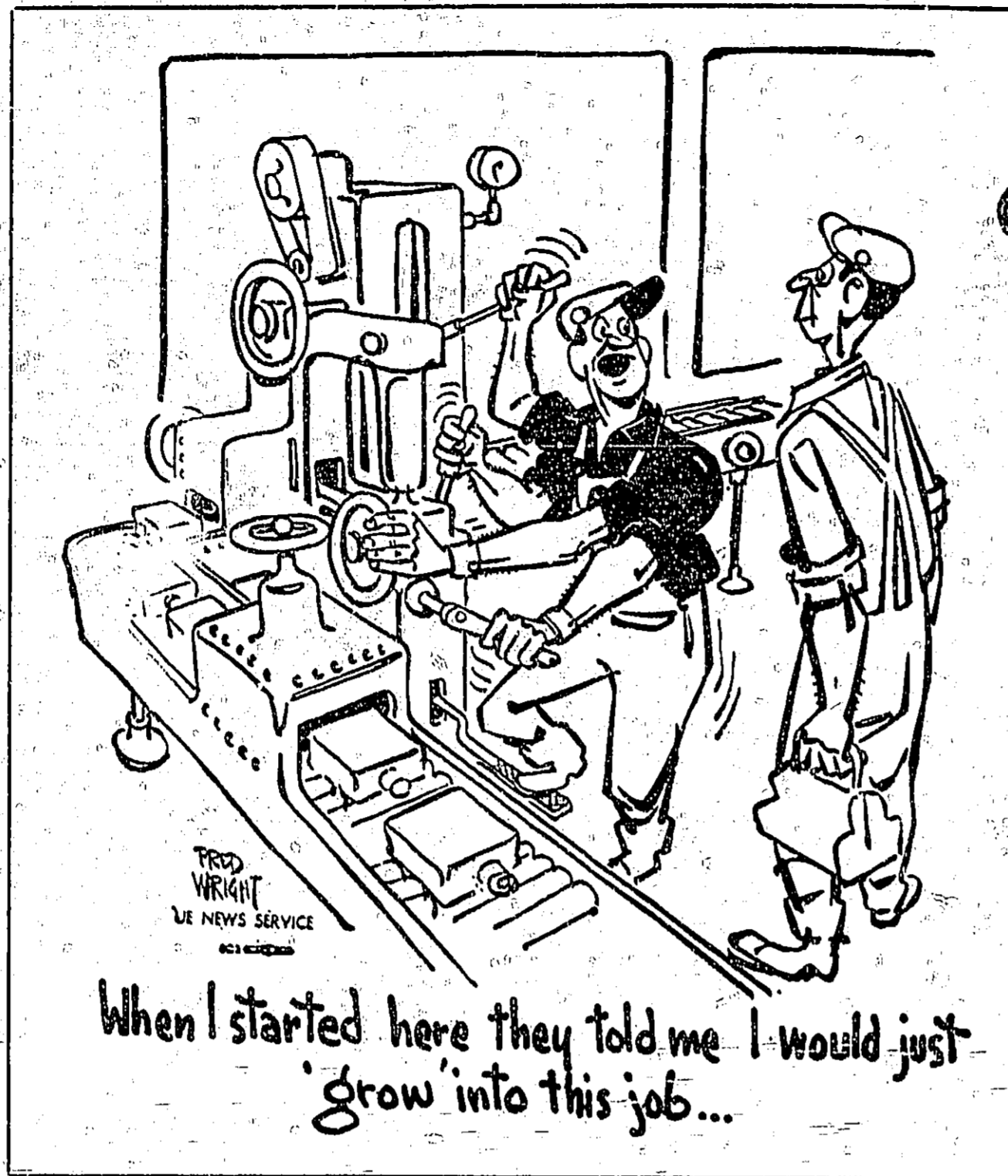
Lunch hour meetings at which these points were reported have brought widespread expressions from the members that they would resist these company demands and insist on restoring the old contract provisions.

John S. Latkowski

John S. Latkowski, 43, a member of UE 301 since its early days, died Sunday at St. Clare's Hospital after a long illness.

He was so strong a UE man that even though his job was outside the bargaining unit since November, 1948, he continued paying his dues and was still a member in good standing when he died. Formerly a crane operator, he had to take a job as a badge clerk in Building 46 in 1948 because of illness and an injury. He worked 24 years at GE.

After a solemn high requiem mass at St. Luke's Church Wednesday, he was buried in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Josephine Furman-Latkowski, 151 Ward Ave., Schenectady; two sons, a daughter, his mother, a brother and four sisters.



\$1,382 Award Won For Injury to Leg

A workmen's compensation award of \$1,382 was made to Nathaniel Johnson, Building 263 laborer, as a result of a claim against GE handled through the UE 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin. Johnson suffered 15 per cent loss of the use of his right leg because of an accident Apr. 30, 1949.

Other recent awards included \$960 to James Cantore, Bldg. 18 milling machine operator, for injuries to his right index finger last Oct. 20, and \$300 to U. V. Davis, Bldg. 17 machinist repair, for a facial scar resulting from an accident last Aug. 26.

GE Profits Go Up, Employment Down

If the General Electric Company continues for the rest of 1950 to make the same rate of profit it did in the first quarter of the year, the net profit for 1950 will be \$147,484,000,—the highest in its history.

GE in the first three months of 1950 continued its practice of squeezing out greater profits with fewer employees. While profits were 38 percent greater than a year ago, employment was still an estimated 12 per cent lower.

CIO Gets a Dose Of Own Medicine

Remember how Canadian delegates to the UE convention last year were "screened" at the border by the U. S. immigration authorities so as to let across only the followers of James Carey?

Now the restrictions are hitting the very "pure" CIO itself. The Montreal Gazette reported recently that the CIO convention scheduled for September has been shifted from Montreal to Chicago.

"There was considerable doubt whether a number of United States leaders would have been admitted to Canada by immigration authorities because of their known and in some cases acknowledged Communist sympathies," the newspaper stated.

"Again there was considerable doubt whether the U. S. would readmit them after they were once out of the country."

Joseph I. Kristel

Joseph I. Kristel, a former shop steward and a member of UE 301 since 1937, died Thursday of last week. He was an assembler in Building 89 and lived at 1114 Congress St., Schenectady.

Nice Fat Pensions For GE Officers

The General Electric Company continues to provide huge pensions for its officers, while denying GE workers adequate retirement income.

President Charles E. Wilson will get \$66,000 pension a year when he retires. Philip D. Reed, chairman of the board of directors, will get \$45,000 a year and Ralph J. Cordiner, executive vice-president will get \$28,000.

On the other hand, the average company pension paid retired GE employees in 1949, including the high pensions of executives, amounted to only \$55.68 a month.

GE was able to use the IUE company union disruption in 1949 to break off contract negotiations abruptly. If negotiations hadn't been disrupted, there is little doubt that GE would have improved its first offer on pensions, an offer to grant up to \$15 a month increased pension for retiring workers whose combined GE pension and social security was less than \$100 a month.

Unite Behind the Contract Demands

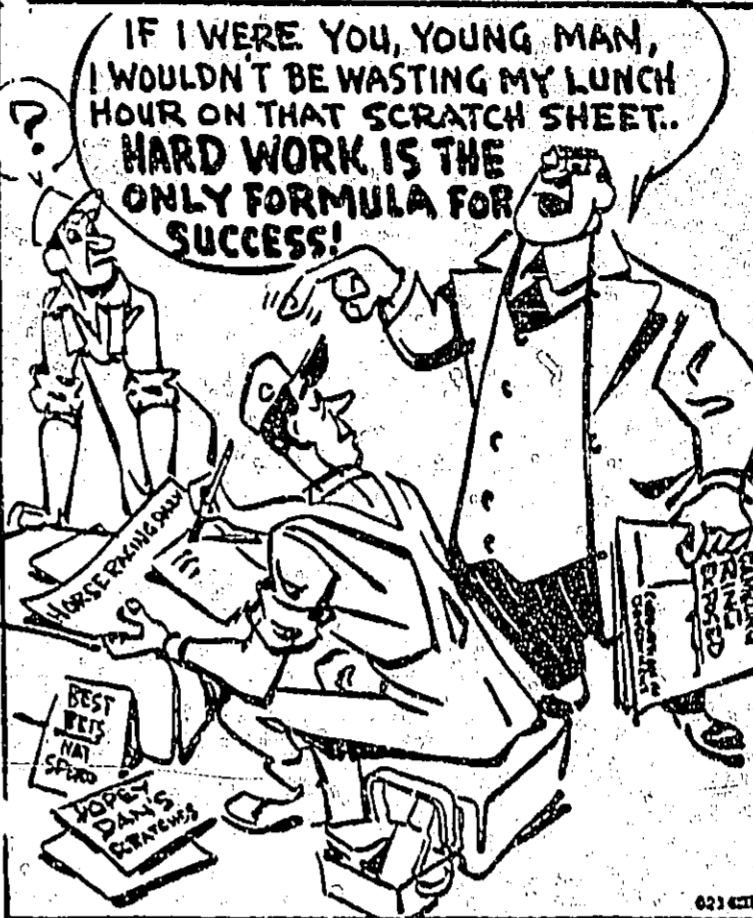
Square D Strike Wins Wage, Pension Settlement

After a five and a half week strike, Square D workers at Detroit, Mich., members of UE Local 937, won a wage and pension settlement which all three Detroit newspapers admitted is far better than the agreements in the auto industry.

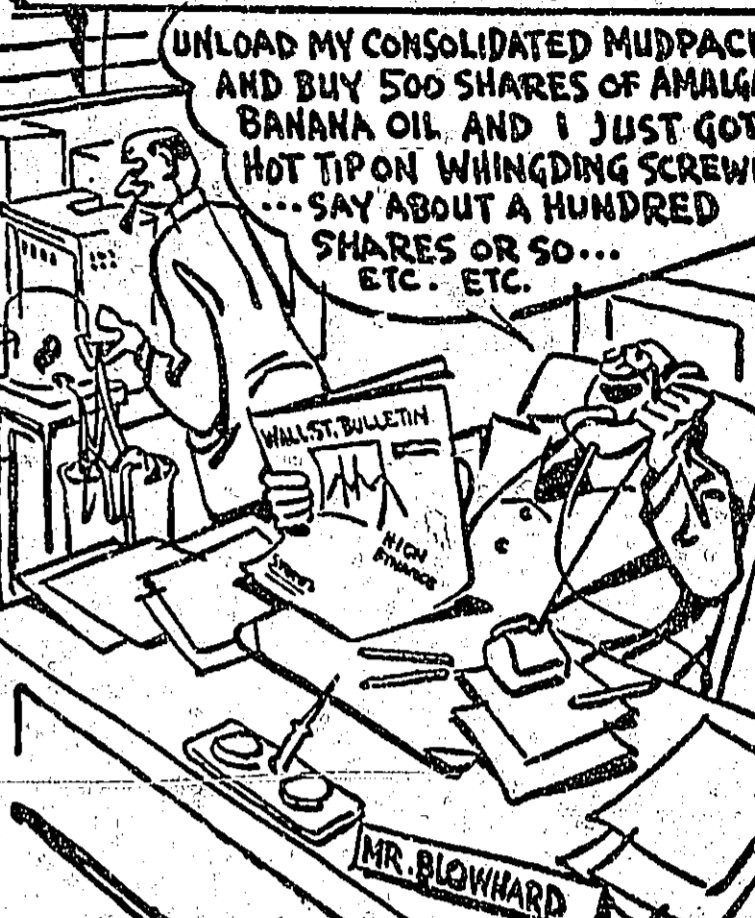


MR. BLOWHARD

MR. BLOWHARD BELIEVES THAT GAMBLING UNDERMINES PUBLIC MORALITY.....



UNTIL HE PLUNGES FOR SOME OF THAT EASY MONEY IN THE STOCK MARKET...



Did You Know?

According to United States government figures, 61,000 persons (less than one twentieth of one percent of the population) receive one half of the dividends paid in this country.

Double Trouble

Even a publication sponsored by employers admitted recently that the CIO is disappointed in its efforts to "K.O." the UE, and "is having bargaining problems to boot."

The Employee Relations Bulletin, published by the National Foremen's Institute (an outfit sponsored by employers) said in addition:

"Philip Murray has personally taken over the negotiations between the IUE (right-wingers) and Westinghouse. He replaces James Carey, secretary of the CIO. Murray has often privately bemoaned the 'lack of aggressive leadership' in the CIO."

Initiation Fees Start in August

Starting Aug. 1, any new member joining UE 301 for the first time will have to pay the \$2 initiation fee. By membership vote, as part of the organization drive, the initiation fee is not required of new members joining before Aug. 1.

Any member who dropped out of the union for any reason must pay full back dues, beginning with April, 1950, for reinstatement. Expelled members are not eligible to rejoin the local.

This policy on initiation fees and reinstatements was voted by the June membership meeting.

UE Wins Payment In Seniority Case

An important victory for the principle of seniority was won this month when the company in New York agreed to pay four months' loss of earnings to a glassblower who had been refused his bump rights, rather than let the issue go to arbitration.

The case arose out of the old contract, and was sent to arbitration by UE under that contract. It was covered by the seniority clause which GE is now trying to change so that the same seniority rights would no longer apply.

The man was a B glassblower in Building 269 when he was laid off in September 1948. Despite his 18 years' experience as a glassblower and eight years' continuous service with GE, he was not allowed to bump on a laboratory B glassblower job in Building 5, on which there was a shorter service man. He was pressured into taking a sheet metal job in Induction Motors. After he brought the case to UE Local 301 in March 1949, the personnel department found him an opening at his trade, but would not admit that he should have been allowed to bump when first laid off.

UE insisted on arbitration under the old contract. GE this month offered to pay for four months of the difference in earnings resulting from the refusal to bump. This covers most of the time he was on the sheet metal job.

Wage Adjustment

Adjustment of wage inequities at National Vulcanized Fibre Company, Wilmington, Del., brought raises of 5 to 11 cents an hour to a large number of workers, through UE. These are in addition to the 7½ cent general increase in the new UE contract.

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By Paying Your UE 301 Dues.