

Won't They Ever Learn?

Trying to Organize 3E Company Union

Efforts to set up a company union in the new GE plant at Montreal were exposed in the May 13 issue of the Canadian UE News. The refrigerator and washing machine plant, which is about 50 per cent organized by UE, was recently flooded with check-off cards for a "General Electric Employees' Association."

"The reason for the appearance of a company union at this time is not hard to find," the union paper stated.

"Negotiations on the national agreement covering all UE-organized plants in Canada have just commenced. Realizing that to keep this group of workers out of the talks will lessen the union bargaining power, the company has made this move to head off participation."

The union paper said that GE started intimidating UE leaders at the plant immediately after two of them attended a meeting of the Canadian GE Conference Board of UE earlier this year.

"Management attempted to persuade them individually that they should drop UE and take over sponsorship of a company union, or failing that, bring in an AFL union," the UE paper reported.

Last year UE obtained a pay increase of 13 cents an hour for the Canadian GE plants, but the raise was never put into effect in the Montreal plant.

Union Asks Start Of Contract Talks

UE this week officially notified the General Electric Company that the union desires to reopen the contract and has asked for negotiations to start at the earliest date possible.

The letter was sent to GE after the required number of GE locals of UE reported ratification of the bargaining program drawn up by the GE Conference Board of UE. The union will seek \$500 per employee in wage increases and in other benefits.

In the letter to GE the union pointed out the need of achieving "full employment through the reduction in hours of work and by advancing the standard of living of our people."

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



"A STRANGE SPECIES - THEY SAY HE WROTE THE WOOD BILL."

Joint Meetings

The 301 membership meeting last week approved the unanimous recommendation of the Executive Board that for June, July and August the shop stewards' meeting be conducted jointly with the membership meeting each month. This procedure has been followed in recent years. The motion adopted by the 301 meeting also stated that the Executive Board shall designate the dates of the combined meetings.

Many GE Foremen Being Downgraded

GE foremen are discovering the hard way that they have no more protection than rank-and-file workers against the ups-and-downs of employment at the plant. Many of them have been downgraded recently.

Nineteen foremen were downgraded in Induction Motors. It has been reported that over 20 are being downgraded in Industrial Control. They have been taking jobs at considerably lower earnings.

No Answer Received From Philip Murray

Local 301 has received no reply from CIO President Philip Murray to its telegram sent last week asking him to recommend a one-day work stoppage as a demonstration for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and restoration of the Wagner Act. The telegram was sent under unanimous action of the 301 membership meeting.

The union office has received a number of inquiries from the shops as to whether there was an answer yet from Murray.

No reply has been received from Murray in answer to a telegram sent several weeks earlier by the 301 shop stewards. The telegram asked Murray to call a demonstration on Taft-Hartley, but didn't mention any specific form.

Did You Know?

It took 175 General Electric workers one year to produce the profit to pay President C. E. Wilson's salary, extra compensation and stock bonus for 1948.

The total paid Wilson amounted to \$242,000.

Actions Taken By CIO Board

Resolutions to restrict sharply the independent rights of the membership of CIO unions were adopted by a majority vote of the national CIO Executive Board in Washington last week.

One resolution called for the resignation of union representatives on the board who do not carry out board decisions. This resolution would dictate to the members of a union whom they may pick as their representatives on the board. It goes far beyond anything tried by the AFL in the way of destroying union autonomy.

Raiding Okayed

Two other resolutions gave the official CIO blessing to raiding of one CIO union by another.

The CIO Executive Board voted to recommend that the next CIO Convention revoke the Farm Equipment Workers' charter.

The Farm Equipment Workers' membership has opposed a CIO Executive Board order to merge with the Auto Workers, and raids by the UAW have been beaten back despite Taft-Hartley Board elections sought by the UAW.

Raiding of the CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Union in Bessemer, Alabama, by the Steelworkers was approved. The raiding there was conducted by the Steelworkers' union setting up CIO local industrial unions, as the Steelworkers have not filed Taft-Hartley affidavits. The CIO executive board then transferred these locals to the Steelworkers.

Condemns Mine Mill Union

A resolution by the CIO Board condemned the Mine Mill union for resisting the raid. It called the slugging of Maurice Travis, Mine Mill secretary-treasurer by Steelworker representatives, "a minor incident". Travis has lost his right eye as the result.

The actions taken by the CIO Board were exactly the kind condemned by the UE General Executive Board in a statement approved by overwhelming vote of the 301 shop stewards this month.

The CIO Executive Board came out again for Taft-Hartley repeal, but opened the way to further amendments to the Thomas-Lesinski bill. Philip Murray was quoted in the newspapers as denouncing the unions which have fought for outright repeal of Taft-Hartley and restoration of the Wagner act.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

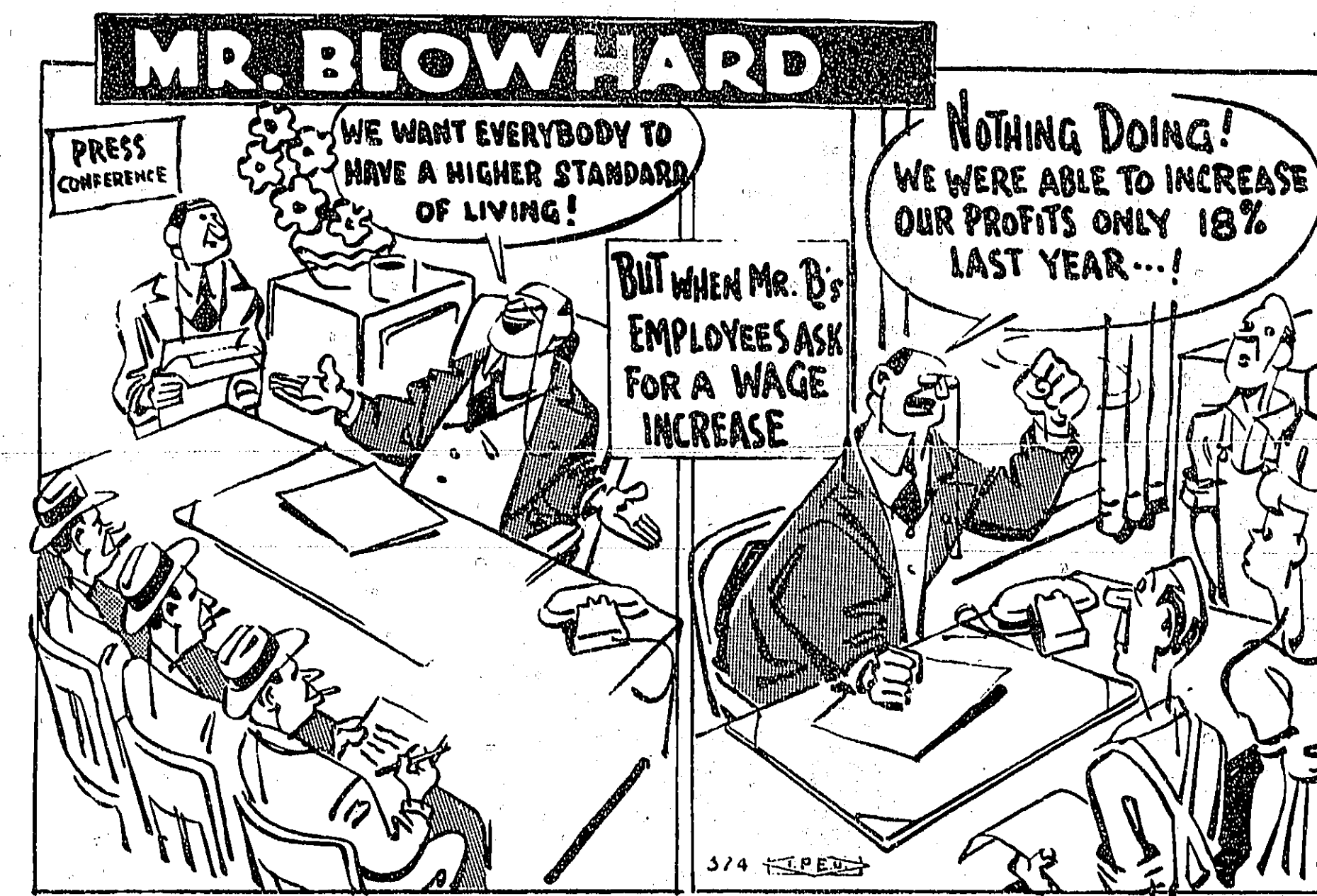
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GE Negotiations Will Start Soon

Contract negotiations with the General Electric Company are expected to start by the middle of this month. In answer to the union's request for the opening of negotiations, G. H. Pfeif suggested June 14 as the starting date in a letter last week to Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE.

Vice-President L. R. Boulware issued a statement at the same time, quoted in newspapers and the Works News, declaring once again that GE opposes a wage increase "in any form."

His statement laughed off the mounting lay-offs and didn't mention the plants GE has closed despite its record-breaking profits.

He came forth with some of the most brazen distortions he has yet produced in his propaganda pieces. He actually claims that GE workers are "saving money at a surprising new rate."

Moreover, this is the picture for the country as a whole, according to Boulware. He contends that the workers have plenty of buying power and that the problem of business now is just to "tempt" this buying power. That's the exact

Local 301 Fights Call-in Pay Case

The union has filed an appeal from a ruling that a day on which an unemployed worker receives call-in pay cannot be credited toward unemployment insurance benefits. The case on appeal involves two laid-off girl workers in building 53, but affects the rights of any number of employees.

The girls were called in on a Tuesday, but there was no work for them so they received the three-hours call-in pay provided through the contract. The Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance insisted on counting the day as a day worked.

The union pointed out that the girls reported to the unemployment insurance office as usual, and that they were available for work all day. The ruling penalizes them for having the protection of the contract provision, 301 Attorney Marshall Perlin said.

opposite of what GE workers know from their own experience.

Once again he trots out the old lie that a wage increase has to increase prices. The fact is, of course, that GE could give a substantial pay raise, shorten the work week and reduce prices, and still make a whopping big profit.

301 to Circulate Petitions on MBA

The union plans to circulate petitions in the shops calling for a membership meeting of the Mutual Benefit Association to consider proposed changes in the MBA plan.

The petitions were started after Works Manager Lewis J. Male turned down the union's request to meet with 301 on the proposed changes. Male took the position that MBA is an independent organization and that the company won't discuss it with the union. Actually the company has the controlling power under the MBA set-up. It has authority to appoint the two main officers and to veto any proposed amendment to the plan.

The MBA General Committee is to vote by June 10 on the proposed changes.

The union takes the position that the workers, who pay most of the cost of the MBA, have virtually no say in its management and should be allowed to have the union represent them in the control of MBA. The fact that many legitimate claims are turned down is clear evidence of this need.

The union also believes that the

(Continued on Page 2)

Outsiders Electioneer In 301 Vote

Announcement that the election of Local 301 delegates to the UE international convention will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday brought forth new factional activity in the anti-labor newspapers during the past week. It also brought activity within 301 by outside groups which have repeatedly sought to influence UE elections.

The newspaper stories centered around the campaign visit here last Friday night of Frederick M. Kelley, of Lynn, Mass., Carey-Block candidate for UE general president, and John H. Callahan of Pittsfield, a leader in the faction of Pittsfield business agent. He was condemned last week by unanimous vote of the 301 Executive Board, including Carey-Block followers, for sending to President Wilson of GE contract proposals in direct conflict with those adopted by the GE Conference Board. Callahan voted for the GE Conference Board recommendation at the New York meeting May 4.

At Dayton Meeting

Callahan later went to the meeting called by the Carey-Block group in Dayton. There he declared that the Carey-Block followers in 301 must be given help from "any outside source we can get to help them."

The Gazette and Union-Star stories quoted Kelley and President Frank Kriss of 301 as complaining that the 301 delegates' election was

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301 Membership, Stewards to Meet

The combined membership and shop stewards meeting for this month will be next week at 301 hall. All stewards and first and third shift members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7. Second shift members will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 8.

Delegates to the international UE convention in September will be elected. There will also be the usual order of business.

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UNITE TO FIGHT FOR UE CONTRACT PROGRAM

CIO Leaders' Record In Fight on T-H Law

An analysis of the fight for Taft-Hartley repeal in the House of Representatives has been sent to UE locals by Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative. It shows with exact facts from the record that the top leadership of the CIO and AFL sold out the fight for repeal.

The top officers sold out the fight by devoting their efforts to supporting one Administration compromise after another and resisting proposals to rally the membership.

Possible to Win Fight

Nixon declares that the fight for full Taft-Hartley repeal could have been won, and still can be won through real mobilization of all organized labor.

The sell-out started in January. At that time the CIO and AFL were correctly demanding the "two-package" approach to repeal, namely, repeal of Taft-Hartley and restoration of the Wagner Act, then consideration of amendments. When the Truman leadership gave this up and opened the door to amendments by proposing the Thomas-Lesinski bill, the top leaders of CIO and AFL went along and gave up the fight for clean-cut repeal.

Conference on Sims Bill

As the fight reached the House floor, CIO and AFL representatives participated in a conference called by the Administration, from which came the Sims bill which included Taft-Hartley injunctions as well as other vicious amendments. Nixon called upon the national CIO to repudiate the move, but the CIO office made no statement.

When the Sims bill came to the floor, representatives of the Mine Workers, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and several CIO unions, including UE, Amalgamated Clothing, and Longshore, campaigned against the sell-out measure. Representatives of the national CIO, the Steelworkers, Textile and Auto campaigned for it, even though these unions were on

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No Compromise



Petitions on MBA

(Continued from Page 1)

GE contribution toward MBA should be much greater and that the proposed increase in MBA dues is not justified.

The union opposes the proposal to eliminate the death benefit. All changes should be in the direction of improving and liberalizing the benefits.

Under the terms of the new state Sickness and Disability Law the MBA becomes a matter of collective bargaining, the union maintains.

record against its provisions.

All through the fight the national CIO leadership opposed any effort to organize the membership of labor for the fight. It never called a legislative meeting to discuss the amendments. Rank and file proposals for demonstrations went unanswered. Instead the national CIO told labor to rely on its promises.

On the Marcantonio amendment for straight repeal of Taft-Hartley and restoration of the Wagner Act, only 37 congressmen voted for labor.

The number one job in the Taft-Hartley fight, Nixon concluded, is rank and file action to prevent any further sell-outs by the top leadership of AFL and CIO.

Outsiders Electioneer In Local 301 Contest

(Continued from Page 1)

being held too early. Kriss was quoted as saying "his group hadn't expected the election for delegates to come up before July."

The peculiar thing about this statement is that long before any election date had been set, the Gazette on May 3 carried a story obviously given to it by the same group, saying flatly that 10 delegates would be elected by Local 301 "at the June membership meeting."

Kriss' supporters on the Executive Board voted for the June election date.

On the subject of Kriss' statements to the papers, the January membership meeting voted by a big majority for an editorial committee report stating that the Electrical Union News should carry "statements submitted by any of the officers which express differences of opinion, not in conflict with the 301 constitution," and that along with this there be "a complete end to the issuance of statements to the daily press by individual officers, other than when an official spokesman speaks officially on union activity."

Since then just one statement has been submitted to the editorial committee by an officer. It was printed in full as submitted.

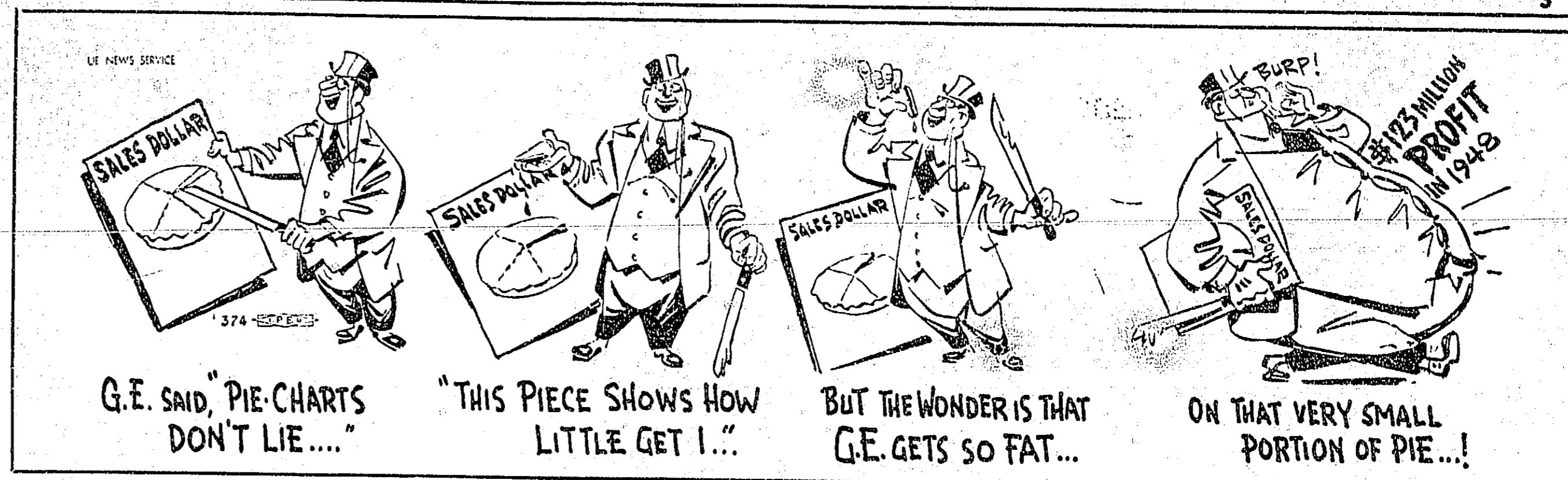
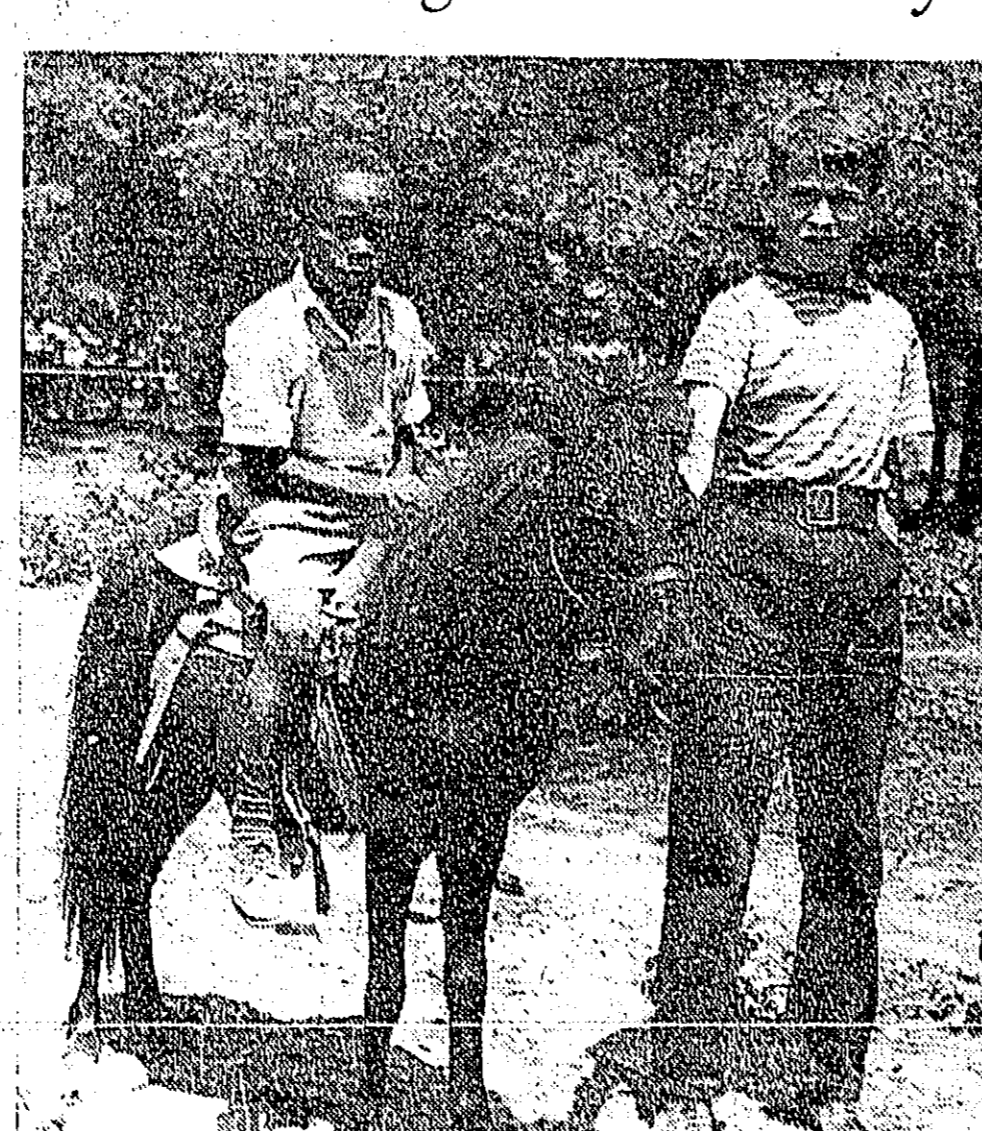
Other outside activity during the past week involved efforts to gather votes for the Carey-Block slate of delegates through outside non-labor organizations.

Attorney's Hours

Local 301 members can consult the union's attorney, Marshall Perlin at the union office every Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. He is available by appointment at other times when his court schedule and other duties permit.

There Will Be Ponies Again at Field Day

Remember how popular the pony rides were last year at the 301 field day? The ponies will be at field day this year too. June 19 at Hans Grell's Grove, 2390 Albany St. Get your tickets from your shop steward.



Local 301 Launches Silicosis Check-up

The union has started an X-ray check-up of about 70 workers particularly exposed to dust in the Porcelain Department in Building 68. The survey is to discover possible cases of silicosis or other dust diseases. Plans were unanimously approved by the membership meeting in May.

The lung expert who handled a similar project for the Elmira local will give medical examinations to the workers whose X-rays show the need of further check-up.

New Jersey Mayors Aid Singer Strikers

The mayors of Elizabeth, Winfield, and Linden, N. J., issued proclamations recently appealing to the public to support tag days of the 7,000 UE strikers at the Singer Sewing Machine Company at Elizabeth. About 1,400 workers at the Bridgeport Singer plant also are on strike.

The major demands of the UE members at these plants are: a halt to speed-up, a shorter work week, a general pay increase and improved seniority.

Brass Hats from Chile Welcomed at GE Plant

A month ago Brazilian brass hats were guests of honor at the Schenectady GE Works and recently GE threw open the plant to a military delegation from Chile.

Major General Ramon Canas, commander-in-chief of the Chilean Army, and his aides displayed just as much gold braid as the group from Brazil. And the government they represent has the same kind of union-busting record that the Brazilian government has.

Bought Your Ticket(s) For 301 Field Day?

Dangers of Mundt-Nixon-Ferguson Bills

The 81st Congress, which has failed to remove the Taft-Hartley law, is trying to rush through the Mundt-Nixon-Ferguson bills, virtually the same as the vicious Mundt-Nixon bill defeated last year by the American people.

These bills were condemned unanimously by the 301 membership meeting in May. Shop stewards have been urged to inform the members of their groups about the dangers of the bills and to organize a campaign of letters and telegrams to Congress.

An analysis by the 301 attorney of some of the worst features of the bills is summarized here.

The bills authorize the Attorney General and a small Commission to label any organization, including a trade union, as a Communist political organization or Communist front organization.

The standards used for labeling a group as "subversive" are extremely vague. A union might be so labeled because of a strike, a fight for higher wages, opposition to racial or religious discrimination, opposition to even part of the government's foreign policy.

Must Reveal Members

If an organization refuses to publish its membership list, that is proof under the terms of the Act that it is a subversive organization. Trade unions in organizing drives, where publication of names would afford the boss an opportunity to fire all trade unionists, consistently refuse to disclose membership lists.

The Attorney General and the commission are authorized to set up standards of political thought and opinion.

If you gave money to or expressed support of a cause which the Attorney General believes would weaken the government and free enterprise system, you could be imprisoned up to 10 years and fined up to \$10,000.

The Attorney General might claim that a strike weakens the country, causes disruption and might lead to Communism.

Or he might agree with C. E. Wilson that increased pay would

Many Women Complain About Miss Monroe

Complaints are increasing about the way women workers are treated by Miss E. E. Monroe of the Personnel Department. With mounting lay-offs and transfers many women must apply to her each week in Building 1 for job openings.

Some of them have reported to the union office that they were needlessly kept sitting in her office all day long. They have complained about discourtesy and lack of consideration on Miss Monroe's part. The union has taken up complaints about Miss Monroe with the management on many occasions.

Workers with complaints on this score should report them to the union office in writing.

125,000 Jobless Exhaust Benefits

More than 125,000 workers in New York state had exhausted their benefit rights for unemployment insurance by late May, according to state officials. Most of them, it is expected, will be qualified to file new claims for the new benefit year starting June 6.

There were 2,111 unemployed registered as of May 20 with the Schenectady unemployment insurance office, compared with 2,403 on May 13. The drop was caused by so many exhausting their benefits.

Quick and Unanimous

The 301 membership meeting May 17 and 18 unanimously approved the action of the Executive Board in rejecting the membership application of John E. O'Connor, who led an attempted back-to-work movement in the Remington Rand strike at Ilion in 1947. O'Connor, who was expelled from UE for life by Local 334, works at the Campbell Ave. plant.