

Good Fishing!



Lynn GE Workers Protest Speed-up

The members of the big GE Lynn Local 201 continue to voice complaints of the same company trouble as experienced in Schenectady.

The principal story in the Lynn UE paper of April 22 features the fact that the motor department there met on a Saturday morning to protest company attempts at "speed-ups which would prove hazardous and impossible." Says the union paper:

"Group 536 pointed out that no matter how much work they turned in the premium remains the same, therefore the group maintains that the company is getting piece work effort for day work earnings.

"People in the group maintained that they are working under sweatshop conditions and the company maintains that they are loafing. "... women are being forced to do men's work.

"Service men are being let go and the operators are expected to service themselves."

The paper also reports a case of two men with 22 and 25 years' service having to wait six weeks for a transfer to a new job, and in the meantime being put on low-rated jobs.

Magician Boulware Still at Old Tricks

Boulware's magic with figures continues, even while the hardships of lay-offs are debunking the magic.

The first quarter of 1949 showed a net profit 5 per cent over the first quarter of 1948, and 1948 was a record profit year. This was supposed to be explained away in the "Where the Money Goes" advertisement which appeared in the Works News of April 22 and the following week in newspapers. Then at the end of the week came the announcement of lay-offs in Control.

From the Boulware magic it seems GE is just giving away money — to its employees, to the government. It seems employees "took" 39.5 cents out of every \$1 received.

The workers know that in fact they made stupendous profits for the company through increased production, and in return they are being laid off. Those not laid-off now are asked to speed-up some more so the company can lay off still more.

Is Your Shop 100% UE?

Lay-off Situation Gets Worse Here

Increased temporary lay-offs imposed severe hardships and considerable confusion on workers in many parts of the Control Division during the past week. It also was indicated that the actual permanent lay-offs would be more extensive than the 200 to 250 announced last week. Other divisions also were hit.

In addition to the Mondays off for 900 on "contributing operations", hundreds on assembly in Buildings 53 and 69 were given a week or more off, pending actual lay-offs. Included in the moves were the new Magnetic Switch line in 69, which had been expected to grow and to make up for some of the drop in Control work. Ten workers were laid off in 69.

The company's explanation for the large amount of "rotation" was that considerable stock-taking and checking of personnel was necessary before the definite lay-off lists could be issued.

In Bldg. 85, Cable, an additional 21 were given lay-off notices this week. There was additional lost time.

In Building 29, Mica, eleven were laid-off. Two were laid off in Building 64, Varnish Cloth, and about 21 there were put on a four-day week.

While there was no lack of work in the Turbine Division, at least six men were given lay-off notices as a result of a speed-up in assembly (see separate story).

An Expert Prowls To Check the Towels

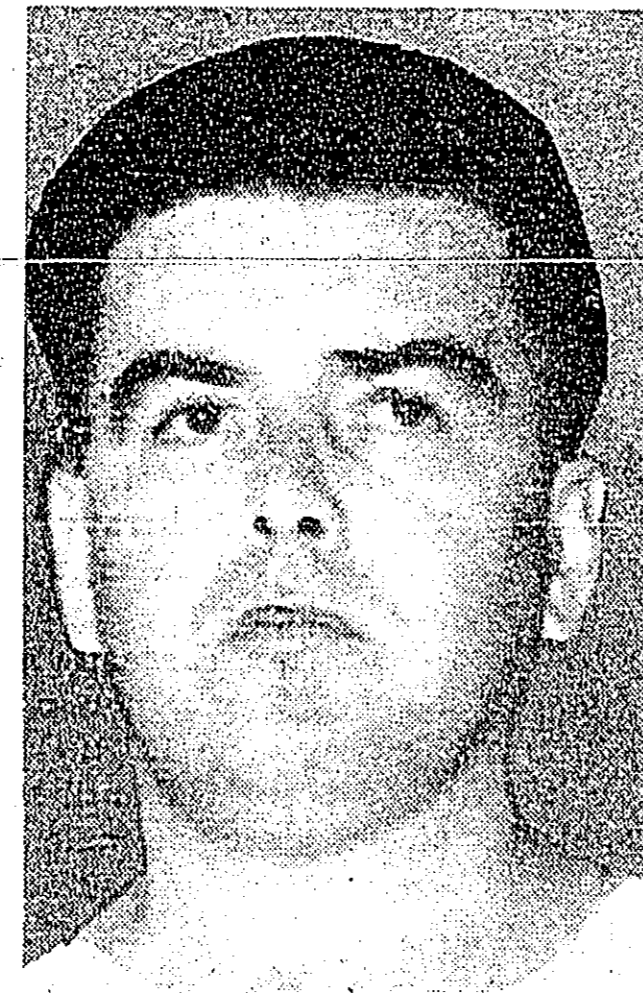
In the Industrial Control Division a special assistant to the superintendent has been assigned to Building 89 to find out why the overhead is too high.

So far he has counted the number of paper towels in the men's wash room, looked under benches for lost items, and sniffed the air for illegally cooked coffee. There's a rumormongering agent into the women's rest room to investigate the towel situation there.

10 Cent Increases

Wage raises of 10 cents across-the-board were won by UE recently at the Allied Gymnasium Equipment Company and the Formica Company, both in New York City.

Look What Got In



JOHN E. O'CONNOR

John E. O'Connor, who led an attempted back-to-work movement during the UE strike at the Remington Rand plant at Ilion in 1947, is working as an assembler in the Campbell Ave. plant. He was a member of the Executive Board of UE Local 334 when the strike started.

O'Connor joined Local 301 during the past winter. His identity was not known at the time. The matter will be taken up by the 301 Executive Board.

Children Can Ride Ponies at Field Day

Pony rides for children will be a feature again this year at the 301 field day, June 19 at Hans Grell's Grove, 2390 Albany St. There are plenty of other amusements planned for the youngsters too.

Anyone interested in setting up a booth or concession at the outing should get in touch with union headquarters.

Shop stewards are selling field day tickets throughout the plant. The big prize is a 1949 Studebaker.

Did You Know?

Dividends in American corporations are the property of a handful of stockholders. 61,000 stockholders receive one-half of the dividends. Very few working people have any stock at all and those who do have only a few shares.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

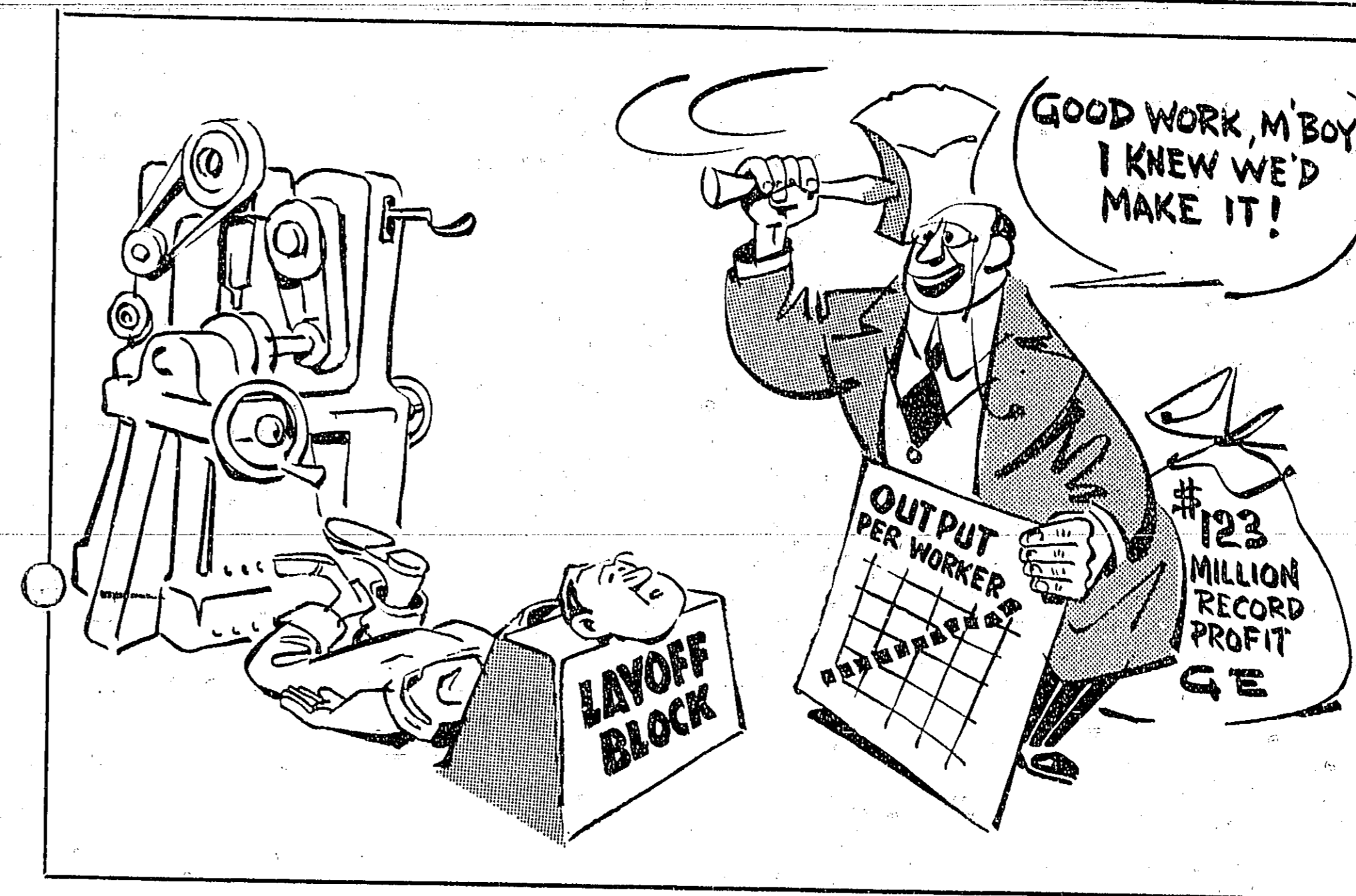
U. E. R. & M. W. A.

C. I. O.

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

May 13, 1949



Board Fights Lay-offs at Male Meeting

GE workers are being laid-off because the company has produced too much that the workers cannot afford to buy with their present wages, 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau told Works Manager Lewis J. Male Wednesday. Because of this, the company will be faced this year with a demand by the workers for shorter hours.

The entire 301 Executive Board met with Male to go over the lay-off picture, which the company admits is more serious than predicted by Male two months ago.

Jandreau also told Male the union would take higher up in the grievance procedure the union protest against farming out work when people are being laid-off here.

Lay-off Predictions

Male placed the probable lay-off figure at 500 to 550 in May and about 300 in June.

Answering rumors circulated in the plant, Male said that the lay-offs had nothing whatever to do with pending negotiations. He said they were caused by the drop in demand.

Jandreau agreed with Male that the lay-offs were not related to the negotiations. He said they were part of the unemployment picture now including 5,000,000 in the country. This, he said, resulted from Big Business policies of high prices, high profits, and low wages, so the purchasing power was not there to buy what the people produce.

Farming Out Work

Male said the company was trying to keep work here, but that it was making an exception by giving at least some work to outside concerns which had "learned how to do our work." He also said some work would go out to GE plants which had been opened at the request of the government. Jandreau said these exceptions were not satisfactory, and that all farming out of Schenectady work should stop.

Jandreau said overtime work should be cut out when people were being laid off or "rotated." Male (Continued on Page 4)

GE Locals Voting On Wage Program

The GE Conference Board of UE has unanimously recommended that the national contract with GE be reopened to negotiate an over-all increase of \$500 a year per employee. The benefits to be covered by this were stated by the Board in the following language:

"The living standards of our people must be improved. Jobs must be provided for every GE employee. Improvement in living standards are needed in higher wages and salaries, better pensions, improved health programs and other economic benefits, including shorter hours of work without cuts in take-home pay."

GE locals are to act on this proposal not later than next Wednesday. The 301 membership will vote on it Tuesday night (first and third shift members) and Wednesday afternoon (second shift). The 301 Executive Board Monday night voted unanimously to recommend that the membership approve the program.

Jandreau on Committee

The meeting of the Conference Board May 4 also elected a nine-man negotiating committee of which Leo Jandreau, 301 business

Special Called Meeting of 301

A special called meeting of the 301 membership is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday for first and third shift workers and 1 p.m. Wednesday for second shift workers at 301 hall.

Delegates to the GE Conference Board of UE will report on contract reopening proposals.

Proposed amendments to the 301 constitution will be presented.

agent and District 3 president, is senior member. GE locals at Bridgeport, Cleveland, Erie, Fort Wayne, Philadelphia, Pittsfield and Lynn are also represented on the committee.

The Conference Board endorsed the position of the UE General Executive Board in recommending seeking the \$500 increase per employee. The statement of the Conference Board pointed out that GE's record breaking profits have brought unemployment and insecurity for its workers.

Closed Plants, Lay-offs

"The company has closed six plants in the last few months and has laid off large numbers in 17 others. Altogether 14,500 employees of GE are out of work. Thou-

ands more of GE employees are working short weeks, with substantial wage reductions."

Since the war GE productivity has increased 25 per cent compared with a general industry increase of 9 per cent, the statement said.

The Conference Board warned that there will be difficulties involved in the fight to improve the workers' standards of living and security.

"The big corporations like GE are jealous of every penny which they have reaped during the post-war profiteering orgy."

Locals must organize all their resources to win the union's demands, the Conference Board pointed out. They must take their story to the community and develop popular support.

Need Blood Donors

Blood donors are still needed to help the widow of a 301 member repay Ellis Hospital for blood used in transfusions for her husband, Paul Grass, Building 273. He died March 14. Volunteers should contact the union office or Executive Board Member Sam Scott, Bldg. 285, Extension 3456.

MAKE JUNE 19
A FAMILY OUTING
IT'S FIELD DAY

HEAD OFF LAY-OFFS BY A GENERAL WAGE RAISE

Still a Chance To Repeal T-H

Labor has another chance to fight for the outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law. But it will take prompt and vigorous action.

The Wood bill, which would continue practically all Taft-Hartley provisions, was recommitted to the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives May 4 after it was passed by the House May 3 by a vote of 217 to 203.

Early last week Truman Administration leaders in Congress said it was hopeless to try to pass the administration Lesinski bill, which would repeal Taft-Hartley and reinstate the Wagner Act with a few amendments. With the consent of some top CIO and AFL officials they whipped up a so-called "compromise" bill which actually contained many of the worst T-H provisions.

The House voted down this "compromise" and passed the Wood bill. Representative Vito Marcantonio of New York, only American Labor Party congressman, used a parliamentary maneuver to win a 24 hour breathing space for the demoralized group opposed to the Wood bill. He moved for an engrossed copy of the bill, a final copy which could not be provided until the next day. Thanks to this delay, there was time to get some Democratic supporters of the Wood bill to shift their votes. The Wood bill was sent back to the Labor Committee by a vote of 212 to 209.

The previous week the House defeated 275 to 37 the Marcantonio bill for outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and reinstatement of the Wagner Act.

MBA in Lay-Off Cases

The Mutual Benefit Association has asked the union to remind 301 members that workers who are laid off can continue MBA membership for a year from the date of their lay-off, by paying the same amount they did when working. During this year they are entitled to hospitalization and all other MBA benefits, except the \$15 a week for being out of work because of illness.

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Memorial Day Pay

Holiday pay for Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, will be paid to workers who have been on a Monday-off schedule, on the same basis as it is paid to the other workers, management assured the union office this week.

Hundreds of workers in the Control Division who are now on a Monday-off schedule are expected to be back to their normal work week within two weeks. According to A. C. Stevens, assistant to the Works Manager, it is possible, but not probable, that those not laid off may lose some more time after Memorial Day.

Board Approves Jandreau Wire on Dayton Meeting

The 301 Executive Board Monday night unanimously approved a telegram sent by Business Agent Leo Jandreau Saturday to the New York Times concerning an article on the so-called "right wing convention" of some UE members at Dayton last weekend. The meeting was organized by Carey-Block followers.

The telegram from Jandreau said: "Your article in today's paper says UE Local 301 is represented at Dayton meeting. For your information Local 301 did not and will not send a representative to this meeting. This meeting is called for the sole purpose of disruption within the UE. It is planned to disunite the membership on the eve of coming negotiations with the major companies in our industry. Please print retraction."

Copies were sent to the Associated Press and the United Press.

Plan Survey in 53

Building 53 show stewards met recently to organize a survey of the experience and qualifications of the approximately 400 people whose work on small appliance controls is scheduled to be moved to Morrison, Ill. during the coming year. Most of the workers who will be affected are women. The survey is planned in order to help place them in the best possible jobs elsewhere in the plant.

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Strikebreaker Told He Can't Join 301

The 301 Executive Board Monday night unanimously rejected the membership application of John E. O'Connor, who led an attempted back-to-work movement in the UE strike at the Remington Rand plant in Ilion in 1947.

The union has notified O'Connor that in applying for membership he misrepresented his eligibility and that under the UE constitution he cannot transfer to 301. He was expelled by Local 334 for his strike-breaking activities.

O'Connor was a steward and an Executive Board member when the strike started. During the strike he urged strikers to return to work on the company's terms. He spent large sums on newspaper advertisements and radio talks trying to incite the community against the strikers. He pretended to be a veteran, but union members forced him to admit that he had never been in the armed forces.

Turbine Stewards To Meet Next Week

Executive Board members in the Turbine Division have called a meeting at the union hall next week of all shop stewards in the division to consider the many Turbine problems. They will discuss particularly the speed-up and downgrading drive and other matters connected with the move to the new building.

The first and third shift stewards will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, and the second shift stewards at 1 p.m. Friday, May 20. The meeting was called by Board Members William Stewart, Raymond Flanagan, Sam Scott and James J. Cognetta.

For Laid-off Veterans

If a laid-off veteran has not yet served his waiting period for unemployment insurance, he will do better between now and June 7 to seek a readjustment allowance under the GI bill of rights. June 7 is the end of the present benefit year, under unemployment insurance. He is entitled to a flat \$23 a week under the GI bill without waiting. Even if his unemployment insurance benefit is the maximum \$26 a week, he can't make up the loss caused by the week's waiting period between before June 7.

UE Broadcast

Tune in on the Arthur Gneth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, at 10 p.m. every Monday on WXXW.

Facts for GE Workers

Actual GE Profit Over \$163,000,000

The General Electric Company reported to stockholders that its profit for 1948 after taxes was \$123,838,000, the greatest in its 57 years.

But that figure does not include millions of additional dollars in concealed profit which GE did not report in this profit statement. The correct figure would bring the net profit (after taxes) up to \$163,300,000, a survey by the UE research department shows.

The company prepared two sets of financial statements, one for its stockholders and the other for the government for tax purposes. In the report to stockholders GE conceals approximately \$28,282,000 in profit by making overcharges for depreciation and setting up a reserve for inventories. In the government tax report GE was not allowed to list the \$28,282,000 as costs.

GE also failed to count as profit \$2,760,000 obtained from undistributed profits of subsidiaries. It also did not include a net profit of \$8,423,000 on the sale of securities. They bring the total of the concealed net profit up to \$39,465,000.

GE President Charles E. Wilson was questioned by a Congressional committee in 1948 about the company's depreciation allowances being larger in a statement for stockholders than the allowances permitted by the government for tax purposes.

Senator Flanders asked, "You feel that it is perfectly proper to take these two positions, one of government accounting and one of stockholder accounting?" Wilson replied, "By all means. That is just being normally prudent."

Worth Investigating

Here is a piece of advice for any union member who has been judged permanently partially disabled but has not received any lump sum workmen's compensation settlement, in the event he should be laid off. Be sure to consult the union office about your case, as you may be entitled to workmen's compensation.

Buying Power

High profits aren't spent in the stores in Schenectady. What is spent there is the buying power of the working people — wages and salaries.

Stewards Oppose Higher Bus Fare

Local 301 shop stewards have written to the Schenectady City Council and the State Public Service Commission opposing the five cent increase in bus fare which the Schenectady Railway Company seeks.

The steward's meeting last week voted unanimously to notify both bodies that "this union is unalterably opposed to any further increase in the bus fares in Schenectady." The railway company has petitioned the Public Service Commission for the fare increase.

In the letter to the Commission the stewards asked that the bus company's petition be turned down and that the Commission investigate whether the company is abiding by the terms of its franchise. They also asked an opportunity to speak at any hearing scheduled.

The stewards called on the City Council to do everything in its power to oppose the fare increase and to refuse to allow the bus company to reduce present services. The company claims it will have to cut service if the fare increase is not granted.

A fare increase would be "another tax on the workers wages, a wage cut", the stewards pointed out. While it would fall most heavily on GE and ALCO workers, the increase "would also be a considerable burden upon the rest of the community."

Union Asks Management To Issue Checks Earlier

Because of a number of complaints, Local 301 has taken up with the company the question of returning to the practice of issuing checks to the first shift on Friday morning instead of afternoon and to the second shift on Thursday night.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, said this would be impossible, because the plant was now making up the payroll in one day less than at any time before the pay week was changed. He said that occasionally issuing the checks earlier in some buildings would only make things worse, as there would be no assurance the practice could be kept up from one week to the next.

Some members have asked why they could not be paid in cash instead of by check. Such a demand would depend on whether or not a large number of workers are seriously inconvenienced by the present practice. Members who have trouble cashing their checks should notify their shop stewards.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



Jandreau Appears for UE at Hearing To Urge Improved Social Security

Industry can well afford to pay the full cost of Social Security benefits and of increasing those benefits, Business Agent Leo Jandreau declared before the House Ways and Means Committee at Washington.

On behalf of UE, Jandreau

spoke in favor of H.R. Bill 2898 to improve the Social Security law, except on one point. He said the union opposes the provision for increased payments from the earnings of workers.

"Profits of industry have advanced to such a level that management can afford not only to pay the full cost of Social Security," he said, "but also can afford to supplement Social Security with additional benefits."

He pointed out that profits after taxes in the electrical manufacturing industry reached \$543,000,000 last year. This was 18 per cent higher than the previous record-breaking profits of 1947. It was double the wartime profits of 1943 the boomtime profits of 1929.

Jandreau described the inadequate pension systems of GE, Westinghouse and other leading companies in the field. GE made some small concessions last year, he reported, "due to union and community pressure."

Jandreau filed with the Congressional committee the table of huge

salaries, bonuses and pensions of top officials of GE and other electrical companies. (On retirement GE President Charles E. Wilson will get \$66,000 a year pension.)

Workers cannot be expected to provide for their old age by saving from their wages, Jandreau pointed out.

"Most workers make under \$3,000 a year, according to government figures. Twenty-nine million family spending units have incomes below \$3,000 a year. Out of these 29 million families, over 11 million have no personal savings and an additional 8 1/4 million had less than \$500, according to government surveys.

"Of the 10 million people 65 years of age or older, more than five million are dependent on some form of charity."

2,583 Unemployed

There were 2,583 jobless workers registered Apr. 30 with the Schenectady county office of the Unemployment Insurance Division. The figure for Apr. 22 was 2,589.