

## The 150Yr. FIGHT For AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISM

— Article 1 —

The workers exhausted themselves in the bitter struggles of the 1870's, but with the return of "prosperity" in 1879 they began to think once more in terms of organization.

### The Knights of Labor

In 1869 a small movement was started to organize all kinds of workers, skilled and unskilled, into a secret society known as the "Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor". In 1876 this organization threw off its cloak of secrecy and came into the open as an active labor organization. The Knights based their organization on local assemblies in which were all the workers of a certain locality. It was really a form of industrial unionism. The Knights included everybody—those already in some form of trade union and those, particularly the factory workers, who had no union at all. In 1878 a General Assembly was formed in order to centralize control of the activities of the local bodies.

The Knights had a good idea—to organize everyone regardless of race, color, creed or occupation. But they were just a little ahead of their times. The problems of the industrial workers did not fit in with those of the craftsmen and the problems of the farmers didn't fit in with either, and the Knights did not understand the differences. In addition, the national office, run by the egotist weakling, Terence Powderly, tried to prevent the local groups from taking militant strike action to solve their difficulties. Conflicts continued within the Knights until the final upshot came when Powderly refused to allow the Knights to support the general strike for the eight-hour day on May 1, 1886. After this sell-out attempt, the Knights took a nose-dive.

From the first the Knights had great ideas but, for the most part, they were very theoretical. They did not pay too strong attention to the actual needs of the day which were—How can we win some real concrete concessions from the employer? How can we make him recognize our organizations? How can we defend our selves against attacks? These questions were finally answered by the American Federation of Labor.

— Continued next week. —

— VICTORY RALLY — TUESDAY —

### Refrigerator Transfer Worked Out Efficiently

The transfer of the workers from the Refrigerator Department to other locations in the plant is complete. And, we are glad to state, despite the tremendous task involved, the job was accomplished in first rate shape.

The problem of transferring 1800 workers established in a line of work onto new jobs in various places in the plant was far from an easy one. The actual transfer was made without any loss of employment such as occurred in the automobile industry. Today every one of the refrigerator workers is on another job, digging in for the war effort. Of course, in any major change such as plant conversion, certain difficulties are bound to arise, such as temporary transfer to lower paid work, etc. A good deal of these sore spots are being ironed out to the satisfaction of the workers involved. All in all, giving credit where credit is due, the company did a good job in the short time allowed—in fact, even better than we expected.

### Union Officials and Office Force Buy War Bonds

Setting an example which is hoped will be enthusiastically followed by the men and women in the plant, the officials and office force of Local 301, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, have adopted the payroll deduction plan for their war bond contributions. Ten per cent is being deducted regularly from the paycheck to go toward the purchase of bonds. Let all the workers fall into line and put over the Treasury Department's drive for ten percent every pay day.

### Labor Forum Broadcasts

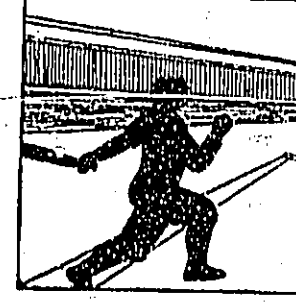
#### "I Am An American" Program

The CIO Capitol District Labor Forum, a weekly radio broadcast over FM Station W47A, last Sunday, from 5 to 5:30 P.M., observed "I Am An American" Day by conducting a special program. The speakers were Douglas Campbell, Prof. of Economics at Union College, Joseph Rotundo, instructor at Union College, commentator, and S. I. Vottis of Local 301, Chairman. The keynote of the broadcast was labor's responsibility in the preservation and extension of democracy.

#### Preservation of 40-hour Week Next

This coming Sunday's program will feature "The Struggle to Maintain the forty hour week and its implications in the present war economy." Owners of FM radio sets, tune in every Sunday at 5:00 P.M.

### THE UPPER CRUST



## SPORT . . . SPARKS

### Baseball Team Ready For Action

The Union Baseball Team, managed by Buck Ewing, received its uniforms this week and is ready for competition. The team is entered in the City League which was formed last week to replace the State League which was abandoned because of the gas ration. Four teams from Schenectady and one from Cohoes will make up the new setup. The teams from the City are the Refrigerators, the Mohawk Giants, the Thelens and our own Club.

### Four CIO Soft Ball Teams

Four softball teams in the G.E.A.A. are now playing under the emblem of Local 301. They are the Transmitter 89, Pattern Storage, Ordnance, and Campbell Transmitter. Let's see some more of the teams playing under the CIO banner. The Union is furnishing all teams who register with the Local Activities Committee (Jack Mele, Chairman) with the necessary letters for the uniforms.

— VICTORY RALLY — TUESDAY —

### "Twelve Sure Ways to Kill the Organization Of Which You Are a Member"

1. Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is closed.
3. Never have anything to say at the meetings—wait until you get outside.
4. When at the meetings, vote to do everything—then go home and do nothing.
5. The next day find fault with officers and brothers.
6. Be sure to sit in the back so that you can talk it over with a brother.
7. At every opportunity, threaten to resign and try to get others to resign.
8. If asked to help—always say that you haven't got time.
9. Never accept an office, as it is easier to criticize than to serve.
10. If you receive a bill for your dues, ignore it.
11. If appointed to a committee—never give any time or service to the committee.
12. Don't do any more than you have to, and when the others willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help the good cause along, then howl because the organization is run by a clique.

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## Call Sent Out for Consumer Center

### To Mobilize City For Anti-Inflation Program

A call for a conference to be held the second week in June is going out this week to all organizations in the city that are interested in fighting the threat of inflation and the high cost of living. The call is being sponsored by the Union and leading civic-minded citizens.

### To Mobilize Consumers

The Consumer Center would serve as a rallying point for the consumers of the community in securing information on prices and values and in taking necessary action against violations. It would be the place where complaints against ceiling violations could be reported, where neighborhood and city-wide price ceiling ranges could be posted. Campaigns on nutrition and against wasteful buying would be organized and carried right to the people. Everything pertaining to consumer problems would be the job of the Center.

The OPA is attempting to institute price control in communities but it is a difficult job to do from the outside. The successful operation of such centers are a job for the people themselves who are the ones most affected by the cost of living.

A leading speaker from the Consumers Union is being invited to the conference to explain the program and assist in working out details.

# Labor Rally Pledges Unity for Victory

## Mohawk Valley Workers Win Praise for War Effort at CIO-AFL Meeting

Hundreds of workers from the City of Schenectady, at the joint CIO-AFL "win-the-war" rally at the Erie Theatre Tuesday evening, heard several speakers prominent in the labor and political field praise the efforts of united labor in the war effort and denounce those persons who, knowingly or unknowingly, distort the work of labor and spread defeat.

For the first time in New York State since the split in the American labor movement, AFL & CIO officials sat side by side on the same platform and came to a common understanding. The spirit of unity was in the air. Around the common necessity of winning the war past disagreements and grudges were buried in a fighting determination to lick the Axis.

### Maverick Gives Praise

Representing Donald Nelson, Maury Maverick of the War Production Board and former progressive Congressman from Texas, declared that the government was highly pleased with the cooperation of the workers in breaking all kinds of production records. "Out of the Mohawk Valley," he said, "will be forged the instruments which will bring victory to the world." He admitted that mistakes had been made, but that it was, frankly, due to ignorance. We have not been at this war business as long as the Axis, but before long "we'll be running it better". Maverick also plastered

those "sanctimonious birds" who expressed the hope that Russia and Germany would slaughter each other. "Russia is fighting for us just as we are fighting for ourselves," he declared, calling for all the possible and to our courageous ally that has been holding back the Nazi horde from our shores. His final plea was for lasting unity between the AFL and the CIO.

### Forgetting Past Differences

"In forgetting past differences," Lieutenant-Governor Charles Poletti said, "in fixing attention upon the goals of ultimate victory, labor sets an unparalleled example to all groups of American citizens." Mr. Poletti lashed out in no uncertain terms at those enemies of labor who are sabotaging the war effort and the victory program with their unfounded lies. He also attacked the isolationists and other defeatists who were making all sorts of crackpot predictions not so long ago and who were now working against the Roosevelt Administration. He called for their defeat in the coming elections.

Speaker of the Assembly Heck of Schenectady complimented the workers for having established in New York State the outstanding record in labor-management relations.

### Hope For Complete Unity

Organic unity between the AFL and the CIO was the hope expressed by the State Presidents of the two labor bodies. President Thomas Lyons of the AFL, after blasting the disruptive attacks on American Labor, declared that he hoped that "there will eventuate in the near future a better understanding and an agreement to consolidate the AFL and the CIO into one great national labor organization." This sentiment was immediately backed up by Gustave Ströbel, of the CIO, who stated that with Murray in place of John L. Lewis, complete unity would soon be a fact.

Richard Carmichael, president of the Schenectady Federation of Labor, was the chairman for the evening. Leo Jandreau, Business Agent of Local 301, opened the proceedings with a plea for labor to take an active part in building a better world after the war.

### Resolutions Passed

Two resolutions were introduced by Sal Vottis, President of the Capitol District Council, CIO, the first calling for the immediate opening of the Western front, and the second urging further cooperation between the AFL and the CIO. They were passed unanimously.

# STOP THE TAX STEAL!

## "Soak the Poor" Conspiracy

### By Congress Endangers

### Victory Program

The House Ways and Means Committee has been working hard in recent weeks to scrap the Roosevelt Administration's democratic tax program. It is no longer a matter of a piece of legislation. It is no longer a matter of debate. It is a matter of Victory or Defeat! The drive to make the poorest people pay the entire cost of the war is being led by the same poll-taxers and labor-hating Congressmen that have been sniping at labor these weeks past. It is a conspiracy against President Roosevelt's Victory Program.

### Anti-Labor Forces at Work

The N.A.M. and the Chamber of Commerce, which have not been successful in shoving the cost of the war onto the backs of the workers by means of anti-labor legislation, are determined to do just that by means of the new tax bill. The attempt to cut out the 40-hour week, the attempt to prevent price increases may have failed—but, the diehards are going to rob the workers' pockets by some means or other.

In the hope that the average person won't be too interested in such dry things as tax bills, the Ways and Means Committee is reducing taxes on corporations and making up the difference in the form of sales taxes and lowered income exemptions.

### Look At the Figures

More than \$700,000,000 of expected income from corporation taxes has already been eliminated. It is now proposed to lower the present exemptions for personal income from \$1,500 to \$1,000 for married couples and from \$750 to \$500 for single persons. In addition, a national sales tax of eight percent, which would automatically jack up living costs all over again, is being proposed.

### No Time to Lose

This wholesale robbery and attack on the victory program of the nation must be stopped. Unless labor fully supports President Roosevelt's democratic tax program, the sales tax and lowered exemptions, which will bear most heavily on the workers, are inevitable. We want increased taxes on corporations, on excess profits, and on personal incomes above the President's limit of \$25,000. Full support to the President! Smash the tax steal!

IT'S BETTER TO PRODUCE AS FREE MEN FOR THE MAN WITH THE LONG WHISKERS THAN IT IS TO PRODUCE AS SLAVES FOR THE MAN WITH THE LITTLE MOUSTACHE

# ORIGINAL TORN

