

Emspak Discusses UE-CIO Relations

In its relationship with the CIO, the national UE will fight for a principled unity, UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak told the 301 shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night. It will continue to insist on preserving the autonomy of the CIO member unions and the right of the membership to make decisions and not have decisions handed down from the top.

Emspak said that at the January meeting of the national CIO Executive Board of which he and UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald are members, certain officials of the CIO decided it was necessary to condemn the third party and support certain measures.

"Fitzgerald and I took the position that the CIO had no right to legislate political thinking for its member unions," Emspak stated. "Our position wasn't for or against a third party. Our position was simply that the unions have the authority to make their own decisions. And that by committing itself to one of the old political parties now, labor was giving up whatever bargaining power it might have."

Criticizes Brophy Orders
Mentioning the orders of John J. Brophy to CIO Councils, Emspak said that all over the country locals have been told they must vote a certain way or they will be kicked out of councils.

"Suppose the General Executive Board of our union write to our locals and said 'we have endorsed Truman or Vandenberg or Wallace and you must go along too, or we'll send in an administrator.' You would tell us to jump in the lake, and would throw us out."

When UE refused to accept this dictation, Emspak pointed out, "some people became hatchet men and went out after companies we had organized."

Emspak described some of the efforts of the United Automobile Workers to raid UE locals, in collusion with members of the Carey-Block faction, or so-called "Democratic Action" group.

Urges Real CIO Unity
In reference to the UE relations with CIO he said, "We are not breaking up the CIO. We are not



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What 1948 Legislature Did—And Didn't Do

There is "very little which can be called good" in the record of the 1948 state legislature, a report by Milo Lathrop, UE district 3 legislative representative, points out.

Here is his summary of the legislature's performance on some important matters.

Unemployment Insurance: A bill was passed granting an inadequate increase of maximum benefits to \$26 a week, but the minimum benefits were left at the miserable figure of \$10 a week. All bills providing for dependency and sickness benefits and for extending coverage to employers of one or more workers were killed in committee. Instead of repealing the employer-devised merit rating law, the legislature gave the employers an extra \$80 million in rebates from the jobless fund. This steal was accomplished by putting a ceiling of \$900 million on the unemployment insurance fund. It will give the employers a total of at least \$150 million in rebates from the fund, while the increase in benefits to workers will amount to only \$18 million.

Workmen's Compensation: Legislation was passed increasing maximum weekly benefits from an inadequate \$28 a week to a still inadequate \$32 and providing no increase in minimum benefits. Other bills providing for minor administrative changes, whose effects cannot be estimated, were passed.

Housing: The Legislature did absolutely nothing to remedy the critical housing shortage. The negative record was pointed up by the killing of the ALP Sherbell-Kaplan bills for \$500 million additional low-rent housing funds and for a state program of self-supporting housing projects.

Veterans: Nothing was done to provide housing, tax relief, or loans for veterans.

pulling out of CIO and we don't want to.

"Some people say let's have unity. It's easy to have unity with your foreman when you take up a grievance, if you accept his explanation,—but UE is fighting for a principled unity."

UE has not endorsed Wallace or the third party, Emspak declared. The General Executive Board, in accordance with the constitution, has given permission to general officers to serve on committees as individuals.

"If there is any endorsement, it won't be made by the GEB," he said, "but by the duly elected delegates of the locals."

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON



Packinghouse Strike Backed by Stewards

Local 301 shop stewards voted unanimously Tuesday night to support the CIO Packinghouse Workers' strike and declared that its outcome "will affect all American workers, and influence our own negotiations with GE."

The resolution called on President Truman "to refrain from any further resort to injunctions against the workers" and called upon the President's Board of Inquiry "to recognize the justice of the Packinghouse Workers' demands."

Killed in Auto Crash

Fay H. Marvin, Jr., 25, son of Fay H. Marvin former financial secretary of Local 301, and Mrs. Marvin, was killed Apr. 2 in an automobile accident near Monticello. He was a World War II veteran. His father is a national UE field organizer.

Telling the Town

During the contract negotiating period, Local 301 is again running the UE "Telling the Town" columns as paid advertisements in Schenectady papers Mondays through Fridays. The column also was used here last year during the UE-GE sessions.

UE Radio Program

Remind your family and neighbors to listen to the Arthur Gaech program at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday over WSNY, WROW and other Mutual network stations. It's sponsored by the national UE.

Fowler Aids Group Sniping at Union

Anonymous chalk writings by dissenters suggesting that they would like some raiding by the United Auto Workers appeared in two spots in the works here during the past week. In one of the spots, where several followers of the Carey-Block so-called "Democratic Action" group are active, an unsigned leaflet quoting anti-labor newspapers in favor of the UAW were left lying around.

The Carey-Block people were evidently working with Barnett Fowler, Union-Star columnist, and receiving his active red-baiting support. In his column Saturday he wrote that when UAW "chalk signs appear on GE walls, the commies sponge 'em off." So now if you defend your union, you're a "commie," according to Fowler.

Fowler evidently makes it a practice to come through against UE when the workers are having a tough time getting a raise from GE. In the toughest period of the 1946 strike he played up in sensational manner a "rumor" that GE was planning to move its general offices out of town. The story, which of course proved to be untrue, was obviously planted to throw a scare into the office workers and small merchants, and turn them against the strike.

Fowler has just obtained a better job under the Dewey state administration.

Of course the answer to all this stuff lies in the fact that 84 members withdrew during the contract withdrawal period, while 856 have joined 301 in the current organizing drive.

301 Family Aids Problems

A Local 301 member and his wife, who have four children, told the difficulties of "making both ends meet" on his wages, over the 301 radio program Monday night on WSNY. Milo Lathrop interviewed the couple, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Roberts. Roberts works in Bldg. 28. His wife hasn't been able to serve butter to the family for four years.

Sale of E Bonds

The company has advised the union office of its plans in connection with a government drive to sell E bonds, starting Apr. 15. At the request of the U. S. Treasury Department, applications for the purchase of bonds will be made available to workers through their foreman. There will be no campaigning nor any pressure, however.

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301 To Hear Latest News Tuesday On Negotiations

Correct Inequities, Union Tells GE

The UE negotiating committee served notice on the General Electric Company yesterday (Thursday) that any contract settlement must include correction of wage inequities. The committee referred particularly to the fact that GE rates for the skilled trades and higher-skilled occupations generally are badly out of line, being lower than rates for such jobs elsewhere.

One of the union contract proposals is that a complete wage structure be negotiated in each plant, to correct such injustices, as proposed in Schenectady Local 301's wage structure proposal.

The UE negotiators told George Pfeif, chief company representative, that either there must be agreement on local negotiation of such a wage structure, or any company wage offer must include specific provision for the correction of inequities.

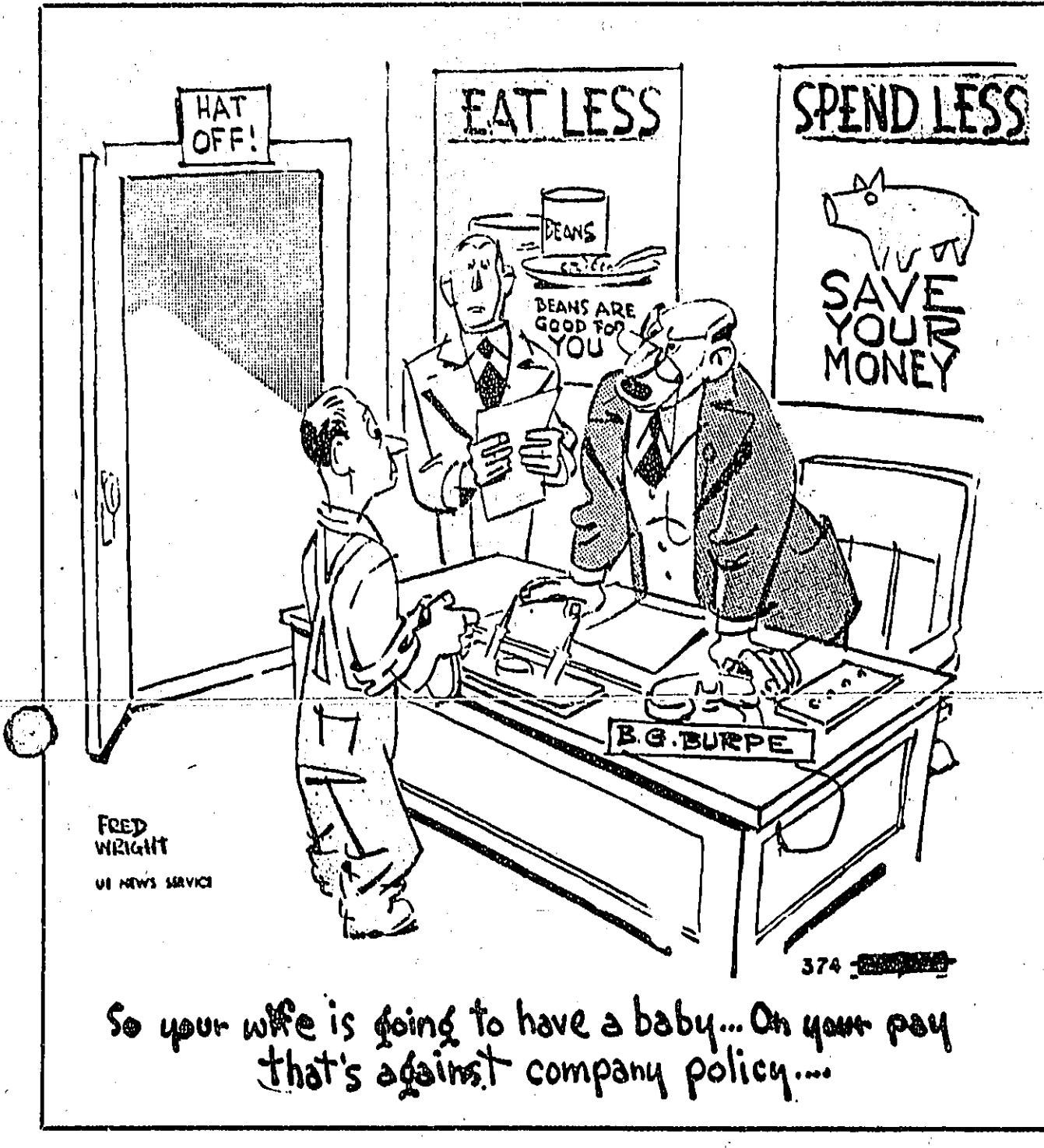
The regular membership meeting of Local 301, scheduled for next Tuesday night, will start instead that afternoon immediately after work, to make it convenient for the largest possible number to hear the latest report from New York on the negotiations.

The meeting will be held at the union hall at 4 p.m., for the first and third shifts, with another session at midnight, for the second shift.

Attendance at this meeting is imperative for every member concerned with his or her bread and butter.

Decision to move up the meeting was made because of the continuing deadlock in negotiations. Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent and president of District 3, said that while certain progress was made during the past few days on lesser points, there was no progress on wages or other major issues. Jandreau said that on Tuesday the company repeated its stand against wage increases. It was evident the company was basing its stand on the belief that the members were not pressing their demands strongly.

Local 301 members this week (Continued on Page 2)



GE Very Anxious To 'Lead' Workers

A General Electric vice-president, in a speech at Rochester Apr. 6, frankly discussed the company's hopes that its employees will be influenced by GE instead of union leadership.

T. F. Barton, GE commercial vice-president, said that GE believes its workers are looking away "from old union and political guidance to forthright business men for truth and leadership."

He urged business management to regain its influence with its employees and the public by job improvement and information programs.

"General Electric is trying sincerely to improve the physical and financial aspects of each job in just the ways that each employee wants his particular job improved," he said.

(He wasn't quoted as mentioning the many unsettled grievances or the workers' wage proposals).

Barton said management "has achieved great success in the product field," but had an "all too tragic failure in the human field—here and abroad."

"We have mastered the machine, but not the man," he added.

Seniority Threatened By Company Proposals

Seniority is the workingman's protection against favoritism of any kind in lay-offs. The opening wedge to destroy seniority is contained in the General Electric Company's proposals in negotiations.

The company's proposal on "reduction of forces" would divide those workers with less than five years' service into three groups, of less than one year's service, one to three years', and three to five years' service. Within each group seniority would not determine who was laid off or kept on, but "ability, efficiency and family status" would be considered.

George Pfeif, chief company negotiator, made it clear the company wanted more room for supervision to pick and choose among workers when a lay-off came. He refused to withdraw the proposal.

While the proposal now relates only to newer employees, it shows the intention to destroy all seniority.

907 New Members

Local 301 has signed up 907 new members so far in the annual organizing drive.

Time for Unity; Union is Target

This is the concluding paragraph of the report made by Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent and District 3 president, to 301 shop stewards on GE negotiations.

"It is clear that in talking about 'inflation,' which it helped cause, General Electric is simply hoping to weaken and ultimately break the union of its employees. It is spending fortunes in advertising to fight the union, instead of in legitimate advertising of products and in pay for its underpaid workers. General Electric banks on the Taft-Hartley Act and the confusion of its propaganda. The workers of General Electric have no intention of letting the company take away their union and their hard-won gains."

Fix Fat Pensions For GE Officers

According to its report to stockholders, GE paid its 8,552 retired employees an average pension of \$52.98 per month in 1947.

But the average includes pensions of retired executives, each receiving several hundreds dollars a month. The average pension actually paid to GE workers is considerably less than \$52.98 a month.

For example, a common laborer with 30 years' service retiring in the next few years will receive a pension of approximately \$31 a month from GE. An employee with 30 years' service now earning \$1.35 per hour (machinist C, for example) will receive approximately \$31.21 a month.

But here are the pensions that the company's top officials will receive upon retirement at the age of 65: Charles E. Wilson, GE president, \$5,500 a month; Philip D. Reed, chairman of the board, \$3,750 a month, and Ralph J. Cordiner, vice-president, \$1,917.

For other officers, the only information available is on pensions they will receive if they retire at 60, which would be five years before the normal retirement date. The average retirement pay for 11 top officers is estimated as \$675 a month and the average for 19 other top officers, \$705.

If these officers wait to retire at 65 their pensions will be considerably higher.

More Children Working

Twice as many children under 18 are employed now in the United States as before the war. There are nearly two million boys and girls working in industry and industrialized agriculture. But Congress made a cut of over 50 per cent in the appropriations for the federal child labor program.

Donate to GE Strikes

The Local 301 Executive Board Monday voted an additional \$100 contribution to the GE strikers at Lexington, Ky., and an additional \$25 to the Boston GE strikers.

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Remember the Depression



Wilson Should Try Saving on \$53.83

The average employee of the General Electric Co., is getting \$53.83 a week. GE tells him he should save out of these wages.

Here are the salaries of top GE officials, who think GE workers can save on \$53.83 a week.

Charles E. Wilson, GE president, received \$166,750 salary in 1947. His weekly take-home pay was \$3,207.

Philip Reed, chairman of board, \$108,666 annual salary, \$2,090 weekly take-home pay.

Ralph Cordiner, vice-president, \$75,833 annual salary; \$1,458 take-home.

Against Upping Pensions

(Continued from Page 1)

outcome of the recent bargaining session in New York, to which UE brought four pensioners.

Trench was friendly, but said a meeting with the whole pension board was not necessary, because the board knew of the pensioners' desires. He said the board was looking into what it could work out in the way of giving the pensioners X-ray and dispensary service and continued Mutual Benefit rights. These were among the union's proposals.

Trench also supplied the pensioners with certain figures on pension payments.

GE Can Easily Give Substantial Pay Raise

The GE rate of profit during the fourth quarter of 1947 was so huge that if the company's profits continue at the same rate in 1948, the profits for the present year will be \$226,000,000 before taxes and \$184,000,000 after taxes.

At that rate, GE would still roll up tremendous net profits even if it granted pay raises of 30 cents an hour. Here are the figures, based on raises for 175,000 hourly rated and salaried workers (excluding executives and supervisors.)

Wage Increase	Cost of Increase	Net Profits After Increase
30c an hour	\$109,200,000	\$72,416,000
25c an hour	91,000,000	83,700,000
20c an hour	72,800,000	94,984,000
15c an hour	54,600,000	106,268,000

The wartime 1945 net profit of GE was \$58,928,000, compared with the \$72,416,000 net profit which would still be left after a 30 cent raise. The 1939 net profit was \$40,861,000.

UE Radio Program To Shift to ABC

More than 50 new stations will carry the weekly Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, starting Monday when the program changes from the Mutual Broadcasting System to the American Broadcasting Company network. The program will be heard from coast-to-coast over at least 112 stations in 36 states. In the east the broadcast will be at 10 p.m. every Monday.

UE made radio history a year ago when it launched the first national weekly radio program ever presented by a trade union in this country. For the last six months the program has featured Gaeth, well known war correspondent and news commentator.

The program will be carried at 10 p.m. Monday over WSNY, Schenectady; WOKO, Albany; WGLN, Glens Falls and WAGE, Syracuse. Arrangements in other parts of territory covered by District 301 will be announced later.

All GE Workers Need Pay During Sick Leave

General Electric, Westinghouse, General Motors and most other employers have recognized the justice of granting salaried personnel paid sick leave. UE believes that hourly rated employees need and should receive the same rights.

A study made by the Bureau of National Affairs in September, 1946, found 69 paid sick leave plans in 320 union contracts, or in almost 22 per cent of the total. They were chiefly in utilities, printing and publishing, wholesale and retail trade, oil refining and metal manufacturing.

UE has over 75 contracts which paid sick leave provisions.

Free Group Insurance

Renewal of the UE contract with Universal Corrugated Box Machinery Co., Linden, N. J., brought a 10 cents an hour wage increase. The company agreed to pay for a group insurance plan providing sick benefits up to \$35 a week, hospitalization, payment of doctor's bills, and surgical fees and maternity care.

301 Meeting Tuesday

(Continued from Page 1)

begun wearing buttons reading "We demand a raise now," and signing petitions with a similar message to the company. An advertisement summarizing Jandreau's report to the 301 shop stewards was run in the Schenectady papers this week. It listed the union and company positions on wages and nine other major points.

Bacon, Eggs on Sale Today at 301 Hall

Bacon and eggs will be the big attractions today at a food sale at Local 301 hall, from noon to 8 p.m. Top grade bacon will be sold for 64 cents a pound and large eggs at 58 cents a dozen. In addition, food and kitchen supplies remaining from the 301 Food Center stock will be again offered at bargain rates.

The Food Committee announced that the final sale of the left-over stock was to be last week, but the food is offered again today, by special request of union members. The committee is still looking for a headquarters where the Food Center can be reopened.

Today's bargains include:
Snacks.....2 boxes for 25c
Paper napkins.....2 packages, 21c
Devil's food mix.....16c a box
Nuts.....30c a pound
Canned tuna.....30c a can
Cleaning tissues.....2 boxes, 21c
Fels Naptha soap.....2 bars, 15c
Swivel.....20c a package
Chase and Sanborn
Coffee.....47c a pound
Raisins.....10c a box
Pie crust mix.....10c a box
Figs (imported).....30c a pound
Dates.....15c a box
Pink salmon.....35c a can
Madonna peaches.....2 cans, 25c
Beets.....2 jars, 17c
Toilet tissue.....2 rolls, 15c

Very Simple \$\$\$ Reason For Shortage of Porters

Workers have been complaining to the union office about lack of porter service in the shops. When the union took up the matter last week with GE, management admitted needing over 60 porters. But nobody applies for the job, GE complained.

The union pointed out that the porter's rate (common labor) at GE is only \$1.10 an hour, compared with \$1.37 elsewhere in Schenectady for laborers. Even the construction company putting up the new GE turbine building pays \$1.37 for labor.

100% Union Group

Shop Steward Stephen Watts in Bldg. 40 called a meeting of his second shift group last week to discuss the deadlock in contract negotiations. A by-product of the meeting was that the remaining eight non-members joined the union. When they saw the rank-and-file union activity among their fellow workers, they decided they should belong too.

Editorial Committee Discusses EU News



A session of the 301 Editorial Committee which has chairman; Mary McCartin, secretary, and Clayton charge of the union's weekly paper. Left to right, Pudney. The committee meets every Tuesday at the Victor Pasche, William Landau, William Templeton, union hall.

UE Wins Injunction Against Secessionists

At the request of UE, a Connecticut court Apr. 9 issued an injunction against secessionists at the Pratt-Whitney plant at Hartford. The court order forbids them to use any of the funds of UE Local 251 or to interfere with the dues checkoff in effect under the UE contract with the company.

The court stated "the purported disaffiliation or secession was a nullity" and that Local 251 is still in existence and part of UE.

A large rank-and-file committee has been organized at the plant to protect UE membership and oppose the secessionists.

Don't Believe Rumors

This is the time when every variety of rumor starts flying about the plant in connection with the negotiations or related activities. Some rumors may start innocently enough. Others are planted by management. In any event they don't help the union.

Don't accept rumors. Don't pass them on. Your shop steward will give you the facts. Or call the union office.

Union-Star Buries UE Ad

The UE "Telling the Town" advertisement in the Schenectady Union-Star has been canceled because the newspaper placed it in such a bad position that the average reader wouldn't find it. The ad continues to appear daily in the movie-radio page of the Gazette.

Who Is This Man?

Who is the worker in the shop today,
With haggard look and hair turned gray;
Who's blamed when things don't go just right,
Who gets no rest by day and night?
Though never having been to college,
He must possess the widest knowledge
On rates of pay and hours of labor,
And how to keep peace with one's neighbor,
On income tax and how it's paid;
What's best to say and when to say it;
And how and which, and why and when

Of all the problems known to men,
If with the foreman he's agreed,
He's sold the men or been weak-kneed.
When for the men he's tried to cater,
He's called a G-D - agitator.
Who is this chap? What? Don't you know him?
Or just how much you really owe him?
This chap, whose torment is assured,
Is no one else than your shop steward.

Children's Party

Good news for the children of Local 301 members. There will be another movie party at 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning, Apr. 24, at the union hall. Refreshments will be served by the Activities Committee.

Support Is Pledged For Hospital Drive

The St. Clare's Hospital fund drive dinner last week adopted the following resolution, introduced by William Mastriani, Local 301 chief steward:

"Be it resolved that we go on record here this evening in a full vote of confidence and endorsement of St. Clare's Hospital Board for the fine, unselfish service to our people and that we will fully support them in the campaign to finish the new hospital."

Other 301 representatives at the dinner were Vice-President William G. Hodges and Victor Pasche, representing Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Low Rates Adjusted

Because of the alertness of two shop stewards in Bldg. 60, increases of five cents an hour were obtained by the union last week for five Class A ladders and 16 Class B ladders. William Young and Ralph Pigeon are the stewards who called attention to the fact that the men's rates were too low.

To Aid Cancer Drive

Local 301 will have its annual Cancer Drive the first week in May, in connection with the nationwide campaign of the American Cancer Society. Plans were made at the Executive Board meeting Monday for distributing donation boxes throughout the plant.

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON