

## Vote on Constitution Changes Slated For Special Called Meeting of Local

A special called meeting of Local 301 next week will vote on amendments to the local constitution recommended by the 301 Constitution Committee. The meeting will be in two parts, with first and third shift workers going into session at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the union hall and the second shift meeting there at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

A report will be made on the deadlock in contract negotiations and the recommendations of the conference of delegates from GE locals which met last week in New York. There also will be the usual order of business.

In accordance with the constitution, the proposed constitutional amendments were sent to all shop stewards last Friday. Frank Emspak is chairman of the Constitution Committee, and the other members are George Walker, Roy Lash, Anthony Campriello and Stanley Aldhouse.

### Recall of Shop Stewards

The first amendment would add to the constitution a provision for the recall of a shop steward when so desired by the group he represents. Removal proceedings could be started by a petition signed by 30 per cent of the union members in the group. The petition would be submitted to the Executive Board for investigation and for conducting a referendum vote.

In the present constitution there is no provision for recall of shop stewards, except by the pressing of charges. This is a difficult procedure and consumes a great deal of time. Very often the desire to recall shop stewards is not based on any specific charge.

### Listing Candidates

The second amendment concerns the listing of names of candidates on the election machine ballot in union elections. It would provide that groups of candidates, if they wish, may be on the same line so that if the membership wishes to vote for any particular group of candidates they may do so without difficulty.

"At the last election names were sprawled all over the ballot and made choice of candidates difficult," the Constitution Committee stated in its letter to the shop stewards.

"This procedure should not be at all complicated and leaves to the candidates whether they wish to be grouped together or not."

### Union Delegates

The other amendments involve the article on union delegates. They provide that union delegates be elected directly by the membership. In the past they were recommended by the Executive Board. The Board itself proposed the change.

## GE Is Very Touchy About Docking Vet

The General Electric Company seems to be very sensitive about the publicity resulting from its effort to high-pressure a World War II veteran to repay an employee's discount of \$183.

The company ran a long story on the front page of last week's Works News attacking the EU News story. The chief point was that GE claims "investigation" showed the young man was living in Gallupville May 4 and not with his uncle at Middleburg. The company insists his home is Gallupville and that he isn't entitled to a discount because the electric appliances he bought are in Middleburg.

EU News checked again this week with the 301 member at his home in Middleburg. He said the company hasn't questioned him again about his home, since the EU News story was printed, nor has it questioned his uncle or aunt. He has been living with them, he explained, since a few days before Apr. 1. He hasn't heard from anyone in Gallupville about any "investigation" there.

The EU News story was correct in every respect, he said, except that GE is trying to collect \$183.81, not just \$183.

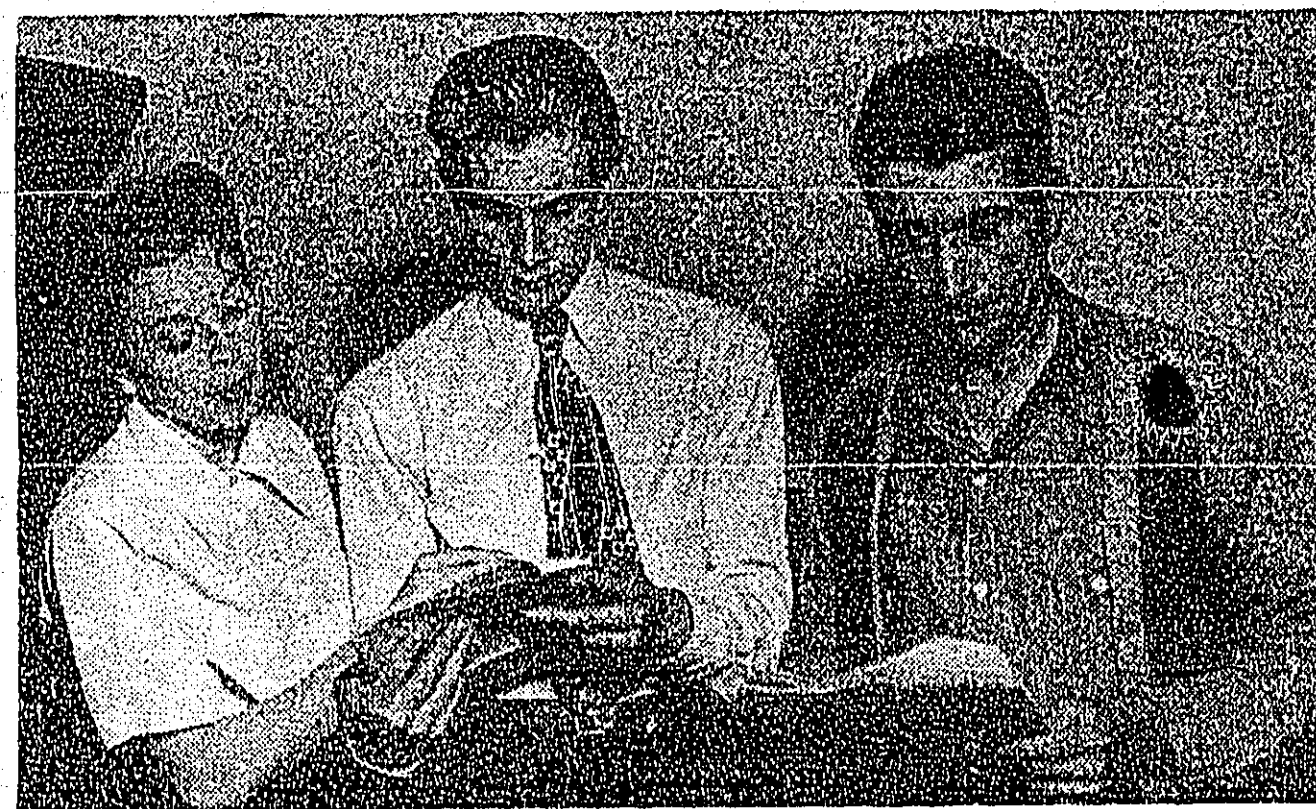
Apparently some one at GE isn't as sure as the editor of the Works News that the veteran really owes that money. The first week after the worker was pressured into signing an authorization for the company to take \$10 a week out of his pay, the money was deducted. But last week he got his full pay check!

## Workers Win Request About Quitting Hour

Quitting time at the Campbell Ave. plant's machine shop and wiring room has been changed from 5 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. through union efforts. As the workers wanted, the lunch hour was reduced from an hour to half an hour to give the half-hour leeway.

After several previous requests were turned down, Shop Stewards William Coccozzoli and Carl Selke took up the matter recently, and succeeded.

## Rehearsing Skit at Try-Out



Talent audition at 301 Hall. Mrs. Dorothy Perlin coaches David Roykoff, center, and Warren Kilmer, right, in a skit. They have volunteered to appear in union entertainments. Union members interested in theatrical activities can arrange auditions by telephoning Mrs. Perlin at 2-0885.

## Press Plays Up Petition Stories

GE's efforts to confuse the negotiations with misleading information and red-baiting were picked up eagerly by the Schenectady daily papers during the past week. They based their stories on statements supposed to have been given them by unnamed persons.

Apparently a handful of persons at the plant fed the company campaign by going to the papers with claims about petitions. The Union-Star first came out with a front page story about one petition supposedly from Bldg. 42. The paper admitted it had not seen the signatures.

The Gazette on Wednesday morning wrote about a petition to the union from Bldg. 49 the previous night, but by Wednesday afternoon no such petition had been received.

Actually just three petitions have been received at the hall. One was signed by a small group in 17, including David Fisher. It asked the officers to sign the Taft-Hartley affidavits "to secure mediation." (The affidavits have nothing to do with mediation.) Another, signed by about 100 in Bldg. 50, also wanted affidavits filed. A third, signed by 93 in Bldg. 53, opposed a strike.

Leo Jandreau made the following comment:

"The fact is, of course, that the affidavits have no bearing whatever on the negotiations. If we were foolish enough to file the affidavits and submit meekly to Taft-Hartley, the Taft-Hartley Labor Board still could not enter the present deadlocked negotiations. The General Electric Company has ac-

## Prizes to Be Given For Field Day Acts

A prize of \$75 will be awarded for the best entertainment act presented by a member or by members of 301 at the annual Field Day June 26 at Columbian Park, Dumsville Rd. A second prize of \$50 will be given and a third of \$25.

Accepted continuation of the contract for another year.

"Members who do not like the present officers will have their full chance to vote against them next December, as they had last December. The anonymous persons who give out stories about petitions are merely giving the company a weapon with which to confuse the bargaining picture. They are also helping the company in its continued efforts to get us to submit to Taft-Hartley instead of fighting the law. They bear out the statement in our Convention resolution on red-baiting, that the red-baiters serve outside interests.

"The only issue in the negotiations is the company's refusal to give anything on wages or any other major point, despite record profits, increased productivity, and reduced real wages."

Newspapers generally are very anti-labor, because they depend on Big Business for much of their income. Both the local papers successfully destroyed the CIO Newspaper Guild, union of their editorial workers. Their editorial salaries are considerably below those that prevail on papers where the Guild is established. And the editor of the Gazette is the son of a GE vice-president.

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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## GE'S NEXT MOVE?



A worker in the metallurgy department at Schenectady made this cartoon for EU News.

## 301 Donations

The Local 301 membership meeting Tuesday and Wednesday voted \$1,000 to the UE District 3 defense fund.

In addition, the membership voted \$100 a week to the GE strikers at Lexington, Ky., and \$50 a week to the Boston GE strikers until the June meeting. The donations were recommended by the Executive Board.

## Weekly UE Broadcast

Don't miss the Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE. It's at 10 p.m. every Monday over WOKO, Albany; WKBW, Buffalo; WGLN, Glens Falls; WKIP, Poughkeepsie; WSNY, Schenectady, and WAGE, Syracuse.

## Wurlitzer Workers Get Pay Increases

Settlement won by UE Local 303 at the Wurlitzer Company, Buffalo, brings a 12½ cent general increase, including six paid holidays negotiated several months ago.

Five cents of the increase was effective May 1 and four cents will be paid Aug. 23. Other gains include time-and-a-half for Saturday and double time for Sunday for all employees, and improved vacations. The two year contract can be reopened for wages next May and for six months later.

## Pay Raise Obtained

A 10 cents an hour wage increase has been won by UE Local 423 for 380 workers at Presto Lock Company, Clifton, N. J.

## Check-Off Drive Gets Under Way

The drive to put all UE members in GE plants on the new voluntary dues check-off effective July 1 is now under way. The compromise agreement between the union and the company provides for the drive to be made from May 20 to 30.

Locals are making detailed arrangements with their local managements.

In Schenectady the union and local plant management agreed to concentrate the work in the three days from Wednesday to Friday, May 26 to 28. Shop stewards will approach the members during working hours, letting their foremen know when they start on this union work and when they return to their jobs.

Authorization cards with the names and check numbers of members will be supplied by the foremen to shop stewards. The union also will have blank forms for new members who want to sign up.

The signed authorization cards will be returned by the stewards to the union office, through the board members. A list will be made by the union office, and later the cards will be given to the company.

Union officers have stressed the importance of completing the drive speedily, both for the efficient functioning of the union and in order to show the company that the workers insist on better contract conditions.

## Political Action At Right Moment

Ranks of the UE strikers at the Durez Plastics plant, Tonawanda, are strong as ever. The 450 workers have been out for over a month now to fight for a 15 cent wage increase and other improvements. And the union has defeated employer efforts to prevent distribution of leaflets explaining the strike issues to the public.

Early in the strike President David Lozo of UE Local 312 was arrested for handing out UE leaflets without a permit. The night before his trial, the North Tonawanda City Council, which has heavy labor representation, repealed the antiquated ordinance which required a permit. The case against the union leader was dismissed the next day.

## UE-GE Still In Deadlock On Contract

Contract negotiations remained in suspense this week because of the inability to make progress on any of the major points. A radio and advertising campaign was under way in GE towns all over the country, to win support from the general public for UE's proposals.

In Schenectady, Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent and president of District 3, will go on the air over WSNY in an hour-long report to the community on the negotiations, Mon., May 24, at 7 p.m. Local 301 concluded a series of group meetings of stewards on the issues, and started holding meetings with craft groups on their problems.

In a letter sent to the entire membership of 301 on the check-off, Jandreau said:

"Here are the real main issues on which the company has said NO, as to each one and all.

"1. Wage increase.  
"2. Eight paid holidays without strings (GE refuses to pay for two of the six holidays this year, because they fall on Saturday).  
"3. Stronger seniority provision (company wants to eliminate seniority under five years).  
"4. Minimum \$120-a-month pension.

"5. Correction of wage rates that are out of line, particularly for skilled trades and women's jobs.  
"6. Higher earnings where more production means greater effort (company wants to take away even the present guarantee of same earnings upon change of method).  
"7. Temporary prices to become standard in six months.  
"8. Apprenticeships in the skilled trades.  
"9. Eight hours' pay guaranteed per shift in three-shift operation.  
"10. Better grievance procedure.

"The company's only concession has been time-and-a-half for Saturday and Sunday for continuous process workers."

## Speaks at Waterford

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 addressed a meeting of the new Waterford GE local of GE May 13.

## Strike Resumed At Boston GE

Service mechanics of the GE Boston Service Plant went back on strike May 14 after GE broke the strike settlement promises it made in April.

The Boston workers first walked out Mar. 15. They returned to work Apr. 26 on the strength of promises made them by "responsible GE officials." Every promise was broken, the strike committee reports.

They had been assured of wage increases and improvements in various working conditions. A few days later the Howell letter, sent by the Schenectady GE workers, made a crack about the Boston strikers winning nothing by their walk-out. Local 301 promptly inserted a newspaper advertisement pointing out the terms of the strike settlement. On May 10 GE ran an advertisement in Schenectady papers upholding Howell's claim and attacking Local 301.

On May 11 the GE manager of the Boston Service Plant called all the mechanics to a meeting and announced the wage increases agreed on would not go into effect. (14 of the raises had previously been announced and others were pending). The mechanics were told that the right to make wage adjustments had been taken away from the Boston management by top GE officials, that there would be no more vacations and that "profit sharing" (still owed in Boston) would not be paid. The returned strikers, including a man with 21 years service, were to be considered as new employees.

After this doublecross from GE, the mechanics set up their picket lines again.

## Win Wage Gains

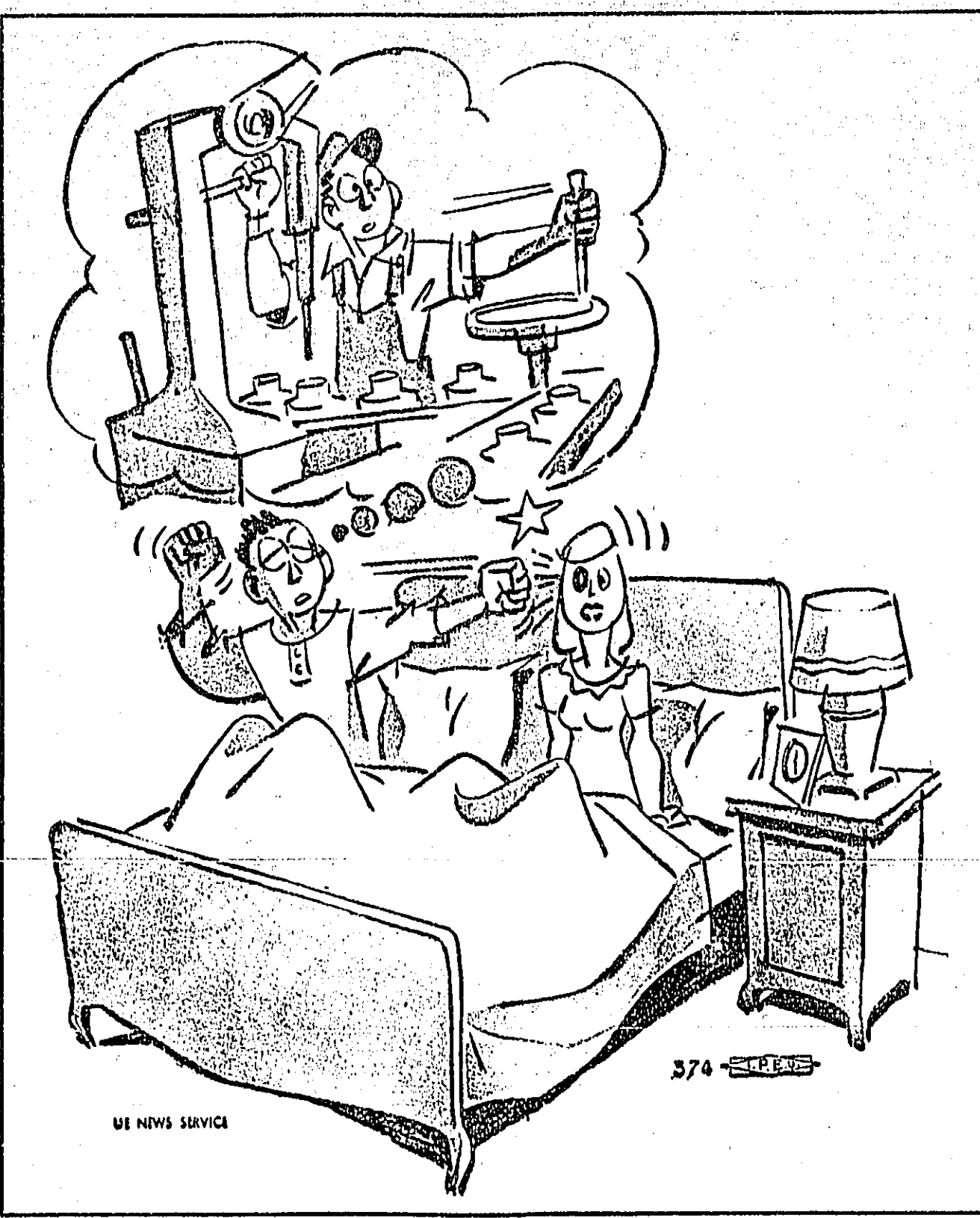
A meeting of 5,000 Singer Sewing Machine workers at Elizabethport, N. J. recently ratified a UE contract. Wage increases ranged from 10 to 15 cents an hour.

## BUILD THE UNION

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
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## Shop Stewards Discuss Real Reasons Why GE Refuses to Grant Pay Raises

The real reasons that the General Electric Company has refused to negotiate a pay raise are discussed in the following quotations from material provided by the union for the special meetings of shop stewards' groups at 301 hall.

"Obviously the company's explanation that it feels wage increases are inflationary is not true since the company has profited tremendously from inflation and has been one of the main fighters for inflation through the killing of price control.

"Also it granted widespread raises to foremen during negotiations. It also has fought just as hard against provisions which have nothing to do with purchasing power, such as correction of wage inequities, pensions, holidays, and those which do not even directly affect its costs, such as grievance procedure, seniority, etc.

## GE's Campaign Against Union

"Any company is opposed to wage increases since they reduce profits. But that is not the main purpose of the company in refusing. The purpose stands out when you consider the company's fight over the past year to discredit the union, its refusal to settle grievances and to let cases go to arbitration, the objection to such security provisions as shop grievance procedure and seniority, and the Boulware campaign of the last six months to sell the workers on dealing directly with supervision in-

stead of through the union.

## Nation-wide Fight

"Also, it must be considered in relation to the overall fight of Big Business to crush the labor movement in all industry, the enactment of Taft-Hartley, the refusal of the wage increase in steel, the fights in which the Railroad Brotherhoods, auto workers, packing house, etc. have now been forced. GE has been one of the main organizers of the Big Business fight all along the line.

"GE is out to destroy this union."

## RCA Strike Vote

UE locals at the RCA plants at Pulaski, Va.; Camden, N. J.; Lancaster, Pa.; and Hollywood, Calif., have voted to strike if necessary to win their wage demands. The vote authorizing strike action, on call weeks of the RCA Conference Board of UE, was by a nine to one majority.

## Real Price Story Buried by Times

The same day that the front page of the New York Times hailed U. S. Steel's \$25,000,000 price cut as a "blow at inflation", the financial page of the Times explained it was no such thing. But the paper devoted 44 inches on Pages 1 and 2 to the "blow at inflation" story and the factual financial item on page 35 was only four inches long.

The short item, which completely contradicted the page 1 story, said that though every price cut is helpful the \$25,000,000 cut "hardly will be felt among the millions of users of these products."

"In fact," it continued, "the recent rise in freight rates . . . will cost the public some \$300-million annually, or more than 10 times that involved in the steel-price reduction." The item then listed a recent increase in oil prices which added \$3-billion more to living costs, and concluded:

"When these and other price rises in recent years are taken into consideration, the steel price reduction can play only a very minor role in the cost of living."

## Pay Raise Won by UE At Spaulding Fibre

UE Local 306 at Spaulding Fibre, Buffalo, has won a 13 1/2 cents an hour package increase. The general wage increase is 11 cents. Adjustments of inequities accounts for one cent and increased vacation benefits and other improvements are covered by the other one-and-a-half cents.

Under the new vacation schedule present employees get two weeks after one year's service; new employees get one week after one year and two weeks after three years. There is extra vacation pay for employees with five years' service or more, on a graduated scale so that after 15 years' service there is three week's vacation pay.

## Paid Holiday May 31

As Memorial Day falls on Sunday this year, the GE plants will be closed Monday, May 31, and workers will have a paid holiday in accordance with the UE contract.

UE has asked for eight paid holidays, instead of six, in this year's contract negotiations. The company has not only refused to increase the number, but insists that it won't grant holiday pay for any holiday falling on a Saturday. This would mean there will be no paid holiday for Christmas or New Year's next winter. Both holidays will fall on a Saturday.

## \$1000 for Fight On Mundt Bill

The 301 membership meeting Tuesday and Wednesday authorized spending \$1,000 on the fight to defeat the Mundt-Nixon bill, as a threat to every labor union and liberal organization in the country.

Members also approved another Executive Board recommendation, to cooperate with the Capital District Committee for Democratic Rights, organized to oppose this bill. This committee has called a public meeting for Thursday night, May 27, at Nott Terrace High School to protest against the legislation. It also is organizing delegations to Washington, and postcard, letter and telegram campaigns.

A resolution passed by Local 301 declares that the bill, "under the guise of attacking Communism, strikes a body blow at the basic freedoms of which America has so long been so proud."

The resolution also states: "The purpose of this legislation is not only to outlaw the Communist Party, but rather its real intent is to intimidate and subject all decent American people and organizations to the fear of criminal prosecution if they dare express views contrary to those held by the administration.

"Trade unions would be persecuted if they fought for higher wages and better working conditions. This legislation carries even further the vicious effects of the despised Taft-Hartley Law.

"The Mundt-Nixon Bill would silence protests against higher prices, against exorbitant profits made by the big corporations at the people's expense. It would attack our living standards, our civil rights, and would prevent the expression of the people's private views. By means of this evil legislation, constitutional government and the guarantees of the Bill of Rights would wither and die."

At the end of the stewards' meetings, several hundred stewards chipped in to send telegrams to Congress opposing the bill.

## Lumber Brings \$60.50

Shelving left from the 301 Food Center has been sold to Anthony Benacquisto of Bldg. 107 who submitted the high bid of \$60.50. Nine other union members made lower offers for the lumber. The sealed bids were opened May 6 at the union hall by the Food Committee.

BACK THE NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH A 100% UE SHOP

## Members Answer Blood Bank Appeal

By the middle of this week the Local 301 Blood Bank Committee had received 34 cards from union members willing to become blood donors. Shop stewards last week started asking workers in the shop to sign up as volunteers.

The committee, of which Jack Mele is chairman and Helen Quirini



Jack Mele

Helen Quirini

is, secretary, is trying to make arrangements for having blood typed.

Need of a Local 301 blood bank was again shown when an emergency call was received last week for blood donors for a Bldg. 273 worker about to undergo an operation at St. Peter's Hospital, Albany. The union was informed of the type of blood needed. Fellow workers in 273 offered to donate blood, but there wasn't time to search for the right blood type.

In the end the hospital arranged independently for a transfusion, requiring three pints of blood at a charge of \$35 a pint. The Mutual Benefit paid for \$25 a pint (the limit is six pints under MBA).

Shop stewards in the building collected enough to pay the difference, and to give an additional gift to the patient.

## Union-Star Prints Anonymous Letters

The Union-Star "letters to the editor" column has recently carried a free flow of letters attacking the union's wage position in high-falutin' language. Since all are signed with such names as "Worker's Wife" and "A CIO Wife," it is not possible to know who writes them. A similar anonymous letter was received last week at the union office demanding that these letters be printed in this paper.

Even if the EU News had the space to print letters it would certainly not print anonymous letters. The editorial committee is a responsible body.

## Now It's Final!! Field Day July 10

The date of the Local 301 Field Day has been changed again. The new and FINAL date is Saturday, July 10, at Columbian Park, Dumsville Rd.

This is positively the last shift in date, the Activities Committee announced. The change was necessary to avoid conflicting with a Sesquicentennial celebration event. Earlier the date had been moved from June 27 to June 26 because of the model air derby.

## Pay Raises Secured For 3 in Bldg. 46

Union grievance action has brought retroactive raises of five cents an hour to three workers in Bldg. 46. The company had neglected to raise their rates when the men were changed to a higher classification.

Shop Steward Rossiter Lighthall handled the cases of two of them, who weren't getting the proper pay for working on B-36 computers. Their increase is retroactive to Mar. 18, the date of their reclassification.

The third case, involving a test man moved Apr. 1 from Class D to Class C, was handled by Shop Steward Willard Kuschel, the Board member for the building. The back pay is retroactive to Apr. 1.

Frank Schaaff, at a meeting in Bldg. 14 with union representatives, conceded all three men were getting five cents too little.

## Changes Approved In 301 Constitution

Three amendments to the Local 301 constitution, recommended by the Constitution Committee, were approved Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon by the 301 membership at a special called meeting.

One amendment provides for the recall of a shop steward by majority vote at two successive meetings of the workers in his group, after a petition has been filed.

A second amendment concerns the listing of names of candidates on the election machine ballots in union elections, so that groups of candidates may appear on the same line if they wish to.

The third amendment provides that union delegates are to be elected by and report to the membership.

## Affidavits Don't Bring Pay Raises

With the 75,000 Chrysler workers on strike for a decent wage increase, the United Auto Workers, CIO, has served a strike warning on General Motors. The 225,000 UAW members in GM will walk off their jobs unless a pay settlement is reached with that company by May 28.

The Ford Motor Company greeted the UAW demand for a 30 cents an hour wage increase with a proposal to cut pay as a matter of "public security."

UAW offered to withdraw its pay demand if the Ford Company would press for "a substantial rollback in the cost of living." That means the pay demand still stands, of course, because the Ford Company, with GE and other big corporations, is responsible for killing price control and for creating today's high prices. Now they are trying to stall off pay increases with pious talk that raises would be "inflationary", and by a few small prices decreases.

The experience of the UAW is another proof that filing Taft-Hartley affidavits has nothing to do with getting a pay raise. UAW was one of the first unions which rushed to file. It's a union which corporations and newspapers have praised for its "anti-Communist leadership." Henry Ford II even made a highly advertised visit to the union office.

There's just one issue in today's wage fight. Chrysler, Ford, GE and the rest of them are determined not to grant pay raises out of the huge additional profits they have rolled up in the past year.

## Retroactive Pay Increase For 4 Girls in Bldg. 81

Management has agreed to make retroactive to June 12, 1947, the 10 per cent table price increase which the union obtained two months ago for four girls in Bldg. 81 for assembling electronic panels. As the old timing rate on the job was 60 cents an hour, they will get six cents in back pay for every hour spent on this type of work from March back to June.

Originally the case was part of a larger grievance case involving many girls and filed by Shop Steward Helen Quirini in April 1948. All the other questions were settled over the months except this.

The workers have been very patient during the company's long delay in adjusting the piece rate table, Business Agent Leo Jandreau has pointed out.