



New York—Employees of the United Metal Box Co. have won a 19½¢ hourly package increase as a result of a 2½ week strike. The more than 300 UE Local 475 members will receive hourly wage increases of 14¢ to 12½¢ plus a Christmas bonus consisting of 2 weeks pay and \$25 to cover taxes on the bonus. One of the features of the strike was the complete cooperation between members of the UE local and of a CIO rubber workers local striking another plant on the same street. The two unions exchanged pickets and helped each other out in many other ways.

Akron, O.—The CIO rubber workers have gained a 12¢ hourly package increase in a new contract covering 1,700 workers at the nearby plants of the Seiberling Rubber Co.

Hamilton, Ontario—UE Local 520 has foiled a plan to set up a seal company union during their strike against the Wallace Barnes Co. The union, which has been out for nearly four months, uncovered the plan and won unanimous support from its members in routing out the company agents trying to put it over.

St. Louis—Joseph Ryan, head of the racket-ridden International Longshoremen's Association, bowed out of the AFL with a speech answering expulsion charges in the same manner as he has answered all accusations for more than 20 years—red-baiting. Ryan, one of the first so-called union leaders to use the red smear line, was greeted with a stony silence at the AFL convention when he sought to blame all of his troubles on the "communists."

Fort Wayne, Ind.—UE Local 910 has negotiated a new pact providing wage increases of 5¢ to 21¢ an hour for employees of the big Magnavox plant here. The boosts included special hikes of up to 12½¢ for skilled workers.

San Francisco—Members of the CIO packinghouse workers and the AFL butchers and meat cutters joined together in a one-day protest strike at the Swift and Co. plant in South San Francisco. The demonstration was viewed as a possible preview of a threatened national walkout by the two unions.

4 • Friday, October 2, 1953

## Supervision in 46 Provokes Work Stoppage By Violation of Agreement and Ultimatum

Continuous failure of supervision to abide by agreements made between the union and the company resulted in a stoppage of workers in Building 46 on Tuesday. Directly provoking the stoppage was the attempt by Foreman Jones to force Shop Steward Wallace Wilcox to work on an improperly classified job or go home.

## Pay Hikes Won for Group In 11 and Worker in CAP

Local 301's grievance machinery has forced the company to live up to the UE contract in two wage rate cases processed at the executive board-management level.

One case involved a group of connectors in Bldg. 11. Under the 1952 contract, this group was entitled to an AER of \$2.19. However, supervision, represented by Foreman Loucks, attempted to reduce this rate to \$2.11. This move involved the cutting of a price on a fabricating ring job from \$19.35 to \$17.

While the docket was being processed, supervision in 11 made some methods changes, apparently trying to cover up the price cut in that way. However, the union was able to show the contract violation and management agreed to the \$2.19 AER.

In the other case, a Campbell Avenue worker was fighting for the A sheet metal classification which he was entitled to after six months. The worker, Herman Wildegans, had been an A sheet metal worker at GE Bridgeport and was doing all top sheet metal jobs completely satisfactorily.

The union took the case up to Bldg. 41 where it won the proper classification and retroactive pay for Wildegans.

## Stewards Get Cards For Eye Glass Plan

Special cards introducing UE Local 301 members to the newly opened Merit Optical Co. will be distributed to shop stewards during the next few days. All members of the local are entitled to use the cards for themselves and their families.

The optical company is located at 100 Jay Street. Its plan to provide low cost optical care, examinations and eyeglasses to the people of Schenectady has been fully approved by the 301 executive board and membership.

Merit will have on hand qualified opticians and optometrists during its daily office hours—9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. The setup at Merit will be similar to that in which many New York City unions participate in order to bring low cost eye care to their members.

This move designed at intimidating the steward was the last straw in a long series of supervision abuses in the building. Since June 30, inspectors in the building have been discussing improper rates with management. In some cases satisfactory agreements were reached only to be violated by the foremen.

These provocations have resulted in a steadily rising anger among the workers. The actual stoppage was touched off because Jones not only issued an ultimatum to Wilcox, but he also told the shop steward that he had no right to consult with the executive board member in the section.

Moreover foreman Jones followed Wilcox around the department for the purpose of overbearing any conversation that would transpire between him and the Executive Board member. An old timer pointed out to Jones that if a Union Steward followed him into the Superintendent's office to overhear a conversation, that steward would be in for serious trouble.

Board member Townsend tried to arrange a meeting to settle the dispute, through Mr. Eastwood, without success.

As this issue of the EU News went to press, it was too early to learn the final outcome of the dispute.

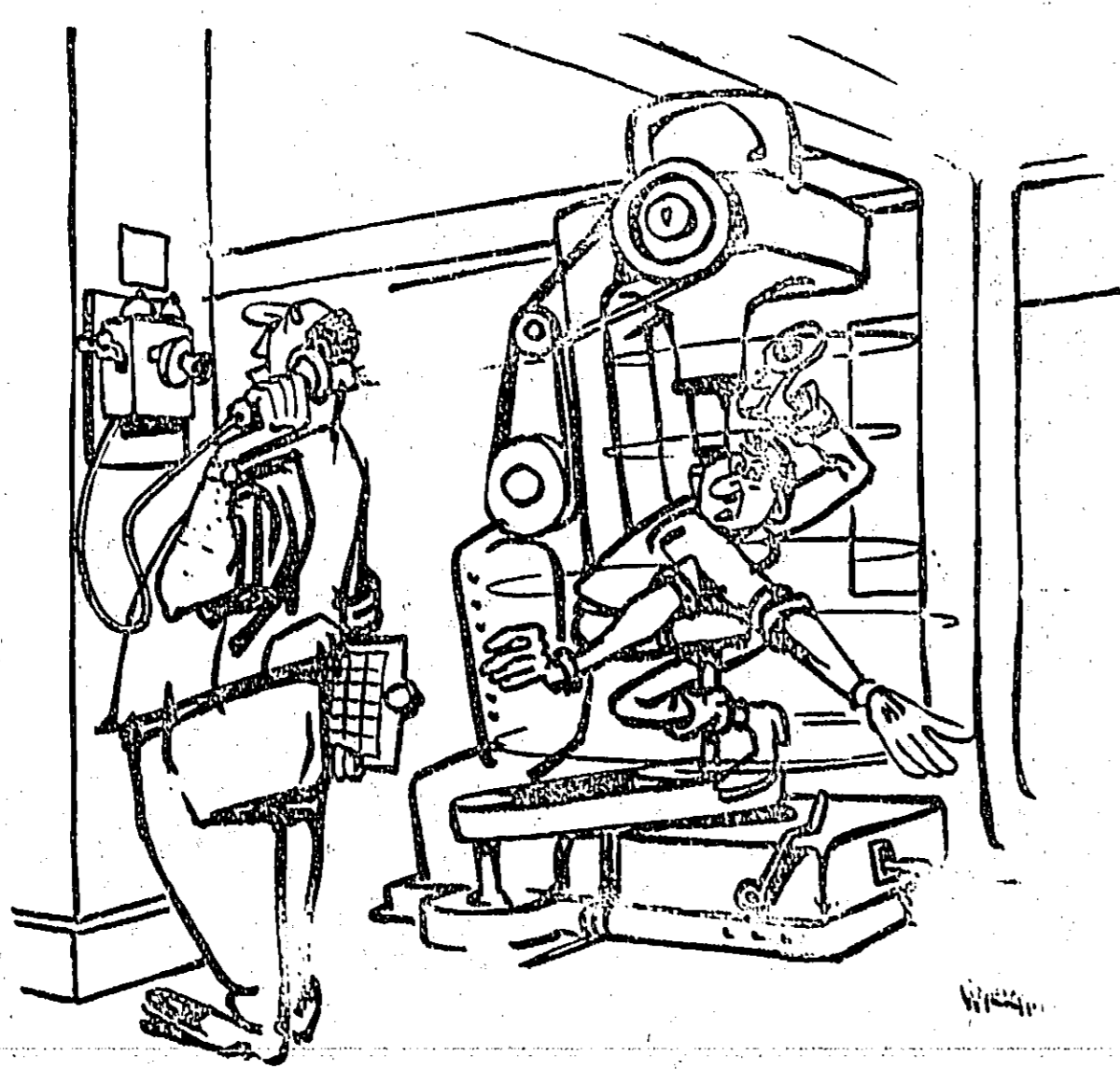
## Give-Away Plan Gets Delegates Up Early

A new scheme, initiated by District #11, the host of the convention, to make sure most delegates were present when the convention morning sessions got under way provided a drawing as the first order of business, taking the morning registration cards, which are signed each morning by the delegates as they entered the convention hall, and using them to draw the winner.

## 301 Delegates on Convention Committees

The rules of the convention permitted only a maximum of 3 delegates from any one local. This is done to keep the committees small in order for them to complete the work.

President James J. Cognetta was elected to the Resolutions Committee; William Mastriani acted on the Constitutions Committee, while Helen Quirini acted on the Committee on Labor and Social Legislation.



SORRY, YOU CAN'T SPEAK TO HIM—HE'S ALL TIED UP!

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

Vol. 11 — No. 40

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, October 9, 1953

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

The last two days to register are today and tomorrow, October 9-10. If you do not register, you cannot vote. The right to vote is a sacred right that every eligible voter should protect and use. You have the opportunity to help select the person who will be responsible for the enactment of laws that will affect you and your family.

How much it will cost you to live and how you will live can be decided by those whom you put into office. Taxes, education for your children and other important issues are at stake.

The voters on Election Day, November 3rd, will decide certain proposed amendments to the New York State Constitution; for example: The voters will decide whether the Governor's salary will be increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and the Lieutenant Governor from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year.

They will also decide on November 3rd whether in future elections the Governor and Lieutenant Governor will be paired and by electing one, the other becomes elected automatically. There will be 9 amendments to the State Constitution proposed to the voters on November 3, 1953.

## Turbine Members Hold Social

Turbine Division members from Executive Board Member A. Christensen's groups held a Section Night and Social at Union Hall last Friday night. Mutual shop problems were discussed informally by the 150 members present during the course of the evening's fun which included various entertainment and more than enough refreshments.

The committee for the affair included: J. Sickinger, R. Deal, Wm. Nolan, J. Di Giorgio, J. Westover and E. Febbie. The entire evening was such a success that a vote was taken to hold another Section Night in the very near future possibly on a different night of the week so that those who were unable to attend on a Friday could be included next time. See your shop steward for time and date.

## Local 301 Wins Vacation Shut-Down Unemployment Benefits for Workers

### Victory Decision Upsets Courts

In a landmark decision which upset two court rulings made against other unions, UE - Local 301 won unemployment benefits for workers unemployed during vacation shut-downs who were not entitled to vacation pay for the entire period of the shut-down.

On September 17, 1953, Leo Jandreau, Business Agent of Local 301, and Leon Novak, the Union's lawyer, appeared at a hearing before a Referee to protest the Unemployment Insurance Division's refusal to grant benefits to workers who had filed. Representatives of the Unemployment Insurance office took the completely false position at the hearing, and had told

individual workers who had previously applied that the reason they were being denied their benefits was because their union had agreed to the vacation shut-down. Jandreau pinned down this outrageous lie by testifying at great length. He told how the union had consistently protested the vacation shut-downs for many years and had processed grievance after grievance in behalf of the workers affected by the shut-down. He showed the referee hundreds of petitions signed by the workers scoring the Company for engaging in shut-downs without negotiating with the union and produced copies of protest letters which had gone back and forth between the Company and the Union. Jandreau made it clear that the denial of benefits was an unwarranted deprivation of the workers' rights and that if necessary this case would be fought to the courts.

So impressed was the Referee with the union's arguments that exactly two weeks later, in a lengthy decision sent to the union's lawyer, the Referee said:

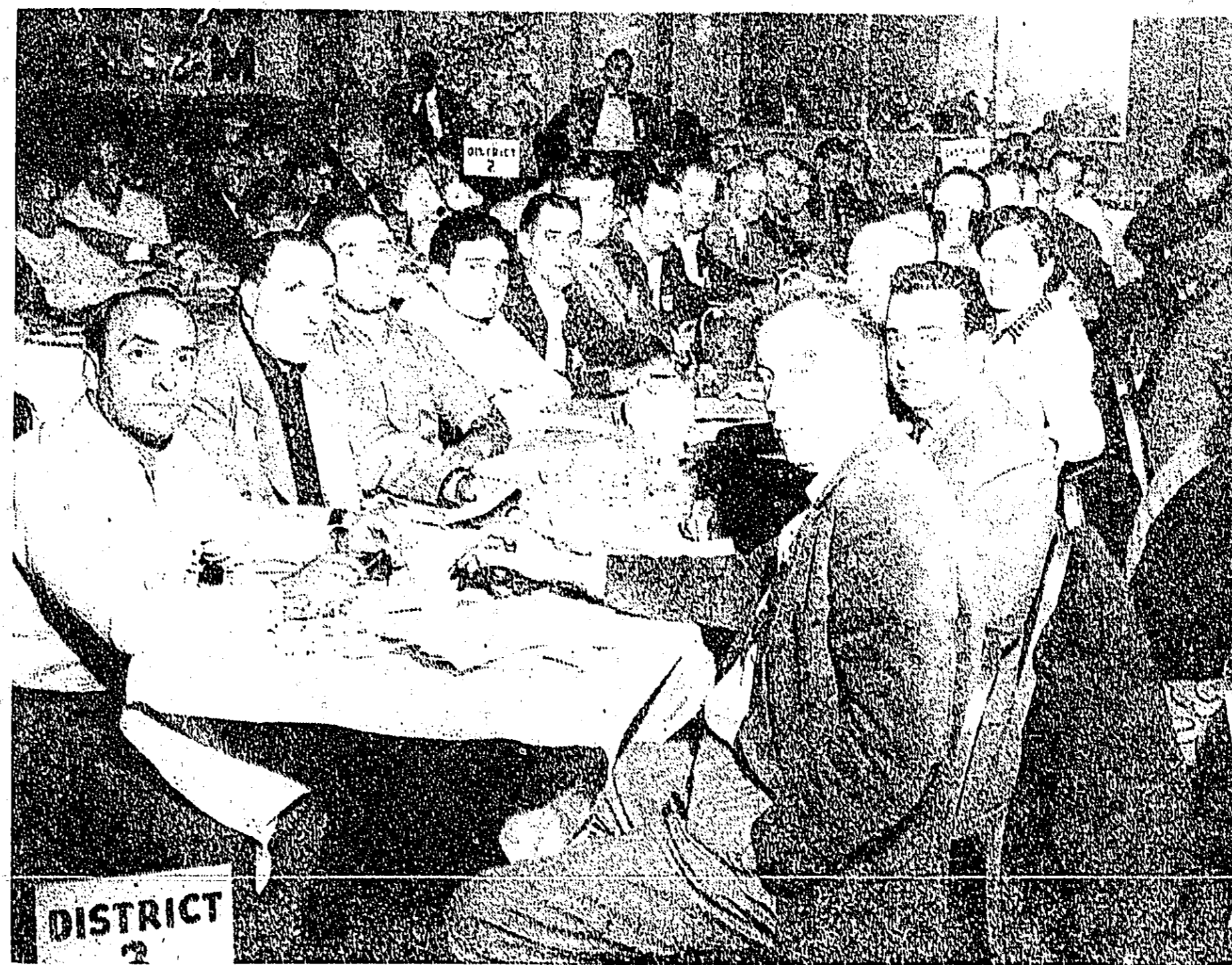
"For some years up to and including 1951, the employer (GE) has been shutting down some of its departments and divisions annually for vacation purposes. The Union has consistently objected to that practice."

The referee then recited in his decision what the union had done to protest the Company's action. It pointed out that the union had canvassed the membership and that an "overwhelming majority" had made clear their opposition. The Referee quoted long sections of the union's letters to the Company. Finally in his ruling, the Referee pinned down the Company's obstinate refusal to listen to the workers' protests in the following statement:

"... not only was there no request or requirement by claimants or the union for a shut-down, but on the contrary, the union was opposed to the vacation shutdowns and the employer (Continued on page 4)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD and OFFICERS MEETING

Union Headquarters  
Monday, Oct. 12, 1953  
7:30 P.M.



CONVENTION DELEGATES — on the left: Fred Pacelli, James Cognetta, William Mastriani, Mario Bagatta, Larry Gebro; on the right: James Brown, Leo Jandreau, Helen Quirini, William Stewart and James De Massoe.



## Injured Workers Rights To Medical Treatment

Union Lawyer Explains Provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Law

The Law requires that when a worker is injured, he be given medical care by his employer. The worker has a right to avail himself of the machinery set up by his employer by way of a company hospital, or if he so desires, to go to any doctor of his own choice for such treatment. The Company is then responsible for the payment of the medical bills according to certain fee schedules fixed by the Workmen's Compensation Board.

If a worker has already begun his treatment at the GE Hospital he does not have to ask for permission to continue his treatments with his own doctor. The doctor will report, in his medical reports, that the worker has come to him. Similarly, if an injured worker is being treated by his own doctor, but wishes to transfer treatment either with another doctor or at the Company's hospital, he need not ask anyone's permission to do so.

Sometimes, a worker who has been injured and who has gone to a doctor for treatment, is asked by the doctor to pay for the treatment out of his own pocket. No worker need pay for such treatment if he has told the doctor that the injury has come from the work because a doctor, knowing that a patient has been injured at work, violates the law if he takes money from the patient for such treatment.

In a previous article, I pointed out that it is of the utmost importance that an injured worker notify his employer of the injury as soon as possible after an accident. It is equally important that such a worker tell the doctor, at the first visit, whether it be to one of the Company's doctors or to his own private doctor, about the accident. This holds true even if the accident took place long before, even years before, this visit to the doctor. By doing this, many months of unnecessary delay can be avoided in prosecuting a claim.

The union's lawyer is always ready to answer questions in connection with medical treatment.

### Wins Back Pay on Work Schedule

Alfred Ritchie, employed in the Office Service Department, was given a special schedule of work hours during the summer months. He was required to report 1½ hours earlier than his regular starting time which was 7:00 A.M. He was paid time and one-half for the hours involved up to his regular starting time.

The contract provides that a day shift employee called in prior to his regular starting time is entitled to double time up to the beginning of his shift. Management agreed with the Union to make an adjustment for the period involved from July 3rd through September 15th. Ritchie will receive approximately \$48.00 back pay.

### CONGRESSMAN DRIPP



"I think I'd make a swell secretary of labor, but I can't sell the boys on it."

### Architect's Preliminary Sketches on New Building

Preliminary sketches of the floor plan for our new building have been started by R. L. Bowen, Architect.

The Board of Directors of the Building Corporation gave the architect the go-ahead approval at their last meeting.

The officers of the corporation expect to have the drawings submitted at a meeting that is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th.

### 3-Year-Old Girl Asked to Sign 'Loyalty' Oath

Pasadena, Cal.—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray think the Pasadena school system may be carrying its "loyalty" oath program too far.

Their 3-year-old daughter earned \$3 modeling for a Muir Junior College art class. She posed for four hours at .75c an hour.

When Mrs. Gray tried to collect her little girl's pay, she was told by the school paymaster's office that Janet would have to sign a "loyalty" oath.

"But she can't write," the mother explained.

The pay clerk handed the oath form to Mrs. Gray to sign for her daughter. She read the form and then protested: "How can I swear for my 3-year-old child that 'within five years immediately preceding this oath she has not been a member of any organization that advocates overthrow of the government? I haven't known her that long.'"

"No exceptions," the clerk replied. "No oath, no pay."

"No exceptions," the clerk replied. "No oath, no pay."

### CIO Union Leader Blasts U.S. Pact with 'Fascist' Franco

In a slashing attack on the new U. S. pact with Franco Spain, Pres. Michael J. Quill of Transport Workers Union (CIO) denounced the agreement as a "betrayal of democracy" and declared: "We will not let the Spanish workers down. We will continue to protest, together with our liberty-loving friends all over the world, until the policy of collaboration with Franco is reversed."



Washington—Reports that Republicans and Dixiecrats have tried to bar amendment of the Carran-Walter immigration act at the second session of the 83rd Congress have spurred a nationwide drive for outright repeal of the law.

Washington — The September CIO Economic Outlook warned that unless anticipated business tax reductions are passed on to consumers and unless labor gets a bigger share in wages of the things it produces, the country will face depression.

New York — Sen. Wayne L. Morse (Ind., Ore.) said here that if the Senate is still evenly divided after the 1954 elections, he will switch his deciding vote to give the Democratic party control of the legislative machinery.

Thompson Falls, Mont.—Jobless workers will have to travel to towns 90 to 125 miles away each week to collect unemployment benefits as a result of the shutdown of state employment offices here and in Libby.

Pittsburgh—A heavily attended meeting of the 6,000-member Local 237, Hotel & Restaurant Employees Intl. Union (AFL) served notice they will accept no contracts for next year unless they provide for more pay.

St. Louis—When, in the final day of its 72nd convention here, the AFL without a dissenting vote expressed its belief that President Eisenhower ran out on an agreement with Martin P. Durkin on the Taft-Hartley act, the delegates sealed the keynote of the entire session. It was opposition to the present administration in Washington.

Chicago—In a move to get an early start on 1954 contract talks, the United Steelworkers (CIO) wage policy committee will meet in New York Oct. 21.

Long Beach, N. Y.—Addressing the New York state CIO convention here, Pres. David McDonald of United Steelworkers predicted that labor unity was nearer than ever before but warned the AFL not to expect to swallow up CIO unions in the merger.

## Justice Dept. Would Give Unlimited Power, Attorneys Say

Attorneys for Far Eastern expert Owen Lattimore, under indictment for perjury as a result of a Senate withhunt, had on file in U. S. appeals court Oct. 5 a charge that the Justice Dept. position would give congressional committees "unrestrained power" to destroy the reputation of any witness.

The charge is contained in a 55-page legal brief contesting the petition of the Justice Dept. that the appeals court restore four of seven counts against Lattimore thrown out by a district court.

U. S. Dist. Judge Luther W. Youngdahl, former Republican governor of Minnesota, threw out the four counts May 2. They included the government's key charge that Lattimore lied when he told the Senate internal security subcommittee he was not a "sympathizer" or "promoter" of communism.

This point is of special importance to the Justice Dept. It is counting on charges like that to back up its cases against labor leaders who signed nonCommunist affidavits under the Taft-Hartley law. The government contends that though they may have resigned from the Communist party, they continue to sympathize with Communists and "think" like Communists.

## Something New Has Been Added to the AFL

Besides the million or so new members, something new has been added to the AFL, a review of the 72nd annual convention at St. Louis reveals. From now on, when you think of Labor, to the presidency of the AFL in place of William Green who had become perceptibly aged before his death.

More important are economic and political influences which have forced AFL leaders to take a new look at their position in affairs of the nation and the world.

### Attention War Vets

Many World War I veterans who retire may be losing disability pension benefits just because they don't apply for them. This information was obtained by Attorney Leon Novak, representing UE Local 301, from the Veterans Administration.

According to the VA, veterans who have any disability when reaching retirement age may find that this disability is traceable to service during the 1918 war. Generally speaking, the only way to find out about this is to apply to the VA for a disability pension when reaching the retirement age.

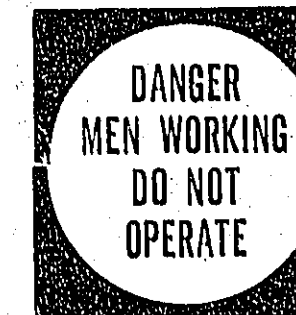
The union urges that all vets of the first war make such application to eliminate the possibility of losing out on benefits to which they are entitled. Further information can be obtained by such workers by speaking with the Union's lawyer at the Union Hall.

So habitual had become the major U. S. labor federations' policy of full-scale cooperation with the political administration in power that a year ago the nation would have been shocked if the AFL president declared in angry tones that his organization will not accept a federal sales tax "wrapped up in the American flag."

So complete had become AFL opposition to the Eisenhower administration by mid-convention time this year that Meany's declaration, following a blistering attack on the administration by Sen. Wayne L. Morse (Ind., Ore.), was accepted in many circles without a second thought.

That declaration of war on the "greedy few" by Meany embodied not only the AFL realization that it has an enemy in the White House, but that economic developments foreshadow a possible down-to-earth deadly contest with American big business over wages. The convention faced up to a possible economic recession and the belief that if it comes, major employers may use it to try and beat down wages and worsen working conditions.

Out of this realization grew the determination to work seriously toward genuine labor unity. Meany emphasized the conviction, with nearby convention approval, that a divided labor movement cannot stand up to a full-scale attack by employers with the Taft-Hartley weapon made more deadly in the hands of a GOP administration.



When you see this red tag on a switch or machine, leave it alone or you may endanger a man's life.

The Building Trade members have requested our Union to advise our members of this because of some recent situations that could have caused serious trouble.



Bldg. 46: Michael Basiluk is demanding a price on Dr. #9610359-2. During a recent time study the foreman refused to proceed on the basis of the operator's performance. Mike claims he gave normal performance and demands a price.

Bldg. 17: A. Glover, a lathe operator, is complaining about a transfer to another group. He claims there is sufficient work on his job to keep him busy.

Bldg. 45: W. Wilcox is complaining about his present classification of Inspector Class "C". He claims the work he is required to do justifies a "B" classification.

Bldg. 45: P. Becker is an Inspector Class "C". He claims the work he is obliged to do justifies a "B" classification.

Bldg. 269: A group of piece workers were taken off their job to work on inventory. They were offered day work while doing this work. They are requesting average earnings.

Bldg. 68: The workers in the shipping and packing group are

losing time and they demand an answer as to whether the lack of work is temporary or indefinite. Otherwise, they want a reduction of forces.

Bldg. 273: A group of boring mill operators under Foreman Kuhlberg are demanding a time study on standards and caps because of a change in method that affects these prices.

CAP: C. Tompman and R. Morrison are complaining because they are being used outside their classification. They are being threatened by supervision for protesting against work outside their duties.

Bldg. 50: The group under Foreman Rosback are protesting the use of crane followers doing packing operations. They claim the crane followers should receive more money for doing this work.

Bldg. 53: Women working under Foreman Ericson are complaining because longer service employees have been given their notice of layoff before others with shorter service.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

Bldg. 28: The stator winders under Foreman Jeffers are requesting individual P.W. rather than group P.W. They say the recent conversion has caused a loss of earnings.

Bldg. 285: The group of drill press operators under Foreman McConaghy are complaining because in a recent time study the new timing rate of .70 per hour was not used. They used the old .60 rate.

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
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