

The United Automobile Worker

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AIRCRAFT AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA — U.A.W.-C.I.O.

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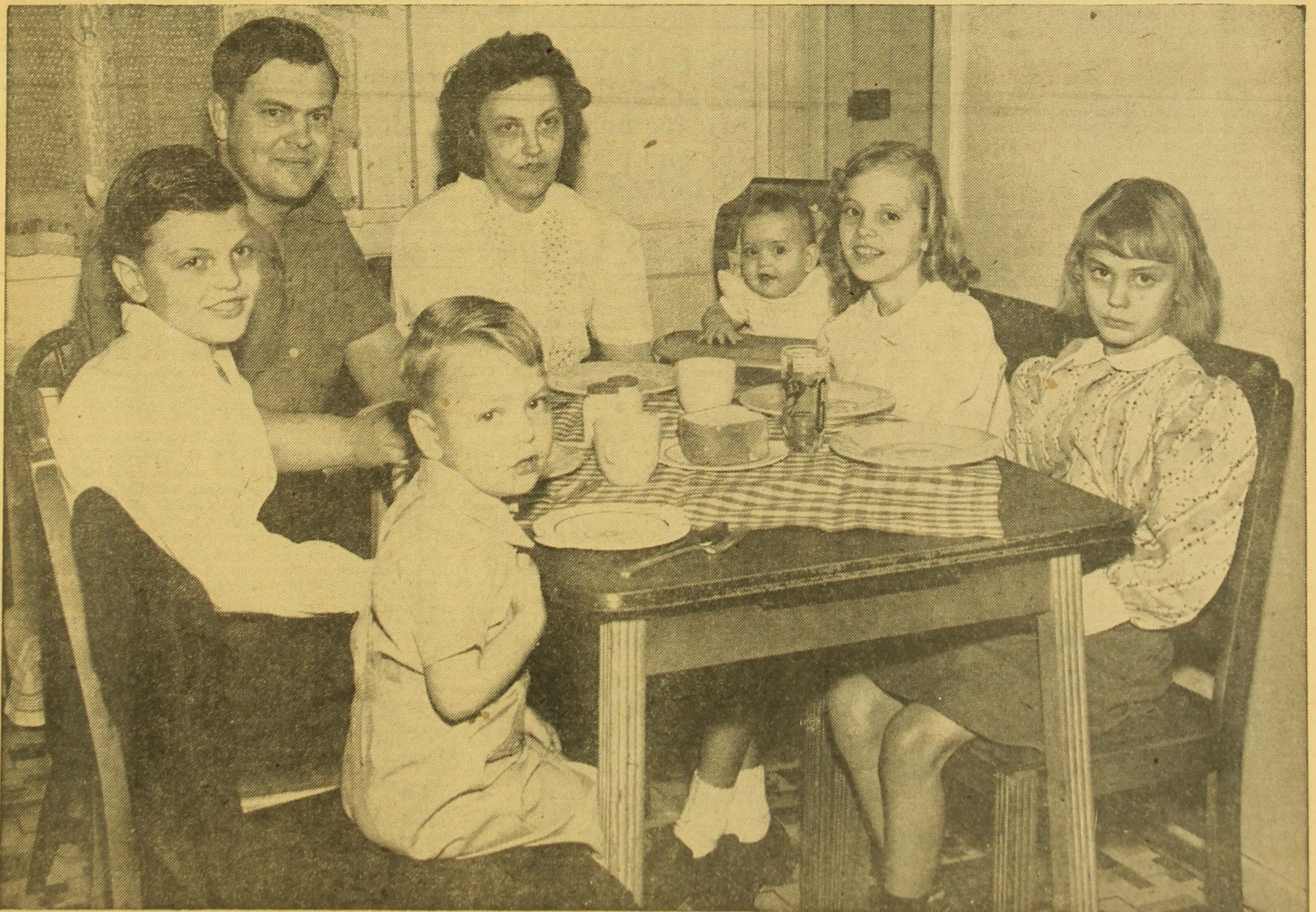
Call International Conference On 1949 Economic Objectives

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REUTHER SUBMITS PLAN FOR HOMES, JOBS AND PLANES

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Hear Walter Reuther on "America's Town Meeting"

"Should We Adopt a Compulsory
National Health Insurance Program"

Nation-wide broadcast over the facilities of the American
Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, February 22, from
8:30 to 9:30 p. m., EST.

Plan for Homes, Jobs, Planes Submitted to President Truman

"Homes for People—Jobs for Prosperity—Planes for Peace"—UAW President Walter Reuther's program for all-out attack on the nation's housing tragedy was laid this week on President Truman's desk after unanimous approval by the National CIO Housing Committee.

As forceful in conception as the 1941 "Reuther Plan" for conversion of the automotive industry to war production, the UAW President's answer to the housing crisis is a double-barrelled proposal that surplus floor space and tools of the aircraft industry be manned as stand-by capacity quickly convertible to plane production, but devoted now to a massive prefabricated housing program geared to turn out two million homes a year.

NATIONAL TRAGEDY

"Every estimate of the national housing need," Reuther declares, "is far above the actual and potential performance of the private building industry. The lack of decent housing within economic reach of all American families may once have been a national scandal. It is now a national tragedy."

Reuther urges upon President Truman the creation of a national housing authority empowered to take over idle aircraft plant and shipyard facilities and, either through loans to private industry or through direct federal intervention, to harness such capacity to a gigantic pre-fab housing program geared to regional and local needs.

JOBLESS INCREASE

U. S. Census Bureau figures for February, the program stresses, show 2,650,000 jobless, a sharp increase over the same period in 1948. Reuther calls for prompt federal intervention in the form of a massive housing program as an offset to further employment slumps and as a means to accomplish the objective of a million new jobs demanded in the President's message to Congress.

With tooling completed for the auto industry's new models, nearly 4,000 skilled tool and die workers are unemployed. Their skills, coupled with the industry's machines, Reuther proposes, could do the basic mass production tooling job required by a prefab industry turning out housing with the help of the latest developments in materials and technology.

The aircraft industry, the plan affirms, "is a public ward," built with public money. Neither private industry nor the military can claim exclusive control. "The aircraft industry can be a tool for the enrichment of peace as well as a source of military power. To exploit its dual nature in a coordinated house-and-plane production plan would be to offer mankind much-needed proof that America's technical competence is controlled by a creative social imagination working through the Democratic process."

Termining the program "the only price at which we may purchase both progress and security in one package," Reuther recommends that the proposed national housing authority be given power to im-

pose materials priorities where necessary and that it contain a large research and development agency devoted to exploitation of new building materials and construction techniques.

GOOD FOR DEFENSE

Financing, the report suggests, could be largely accomplished through reduction of appropriations for finished aircraft doomed to speedy obsolescence and application of funds instead to equipping and staffing prefab housing plants kept ready for instant conversion to mass plane production. "At the present pace of change in military aircraft," Reuther declares, "today's super bombers are tomorrow's Model T's. Our long-term safety will best be served by an investment policy which creates the maximum potential production capacity, tooled and manned for sudden quantity output of the latest models of military aircraft should an emergency approach." He cites the dictum of the President's air policy commission: "For national security, second best military aircraft are simply not good enough."

GOOD FOR LABOR

The plan offers salvation rather than a threat to construction labor, Reuther asserts, by furnishing an effective weapon against seasonal unemployment. By forcing down the inflated cost of normal building, moreover, the plan would increase the demand for conventional housing and arrest the alarming rise in construction unemployment.

Drafted to "protect the people who live IN houses rather than those who live OFF them," the UAW proposal affords the only instrument yet developed, Reuther states, to deal with the neglected problem of farm and rural housing.

REDUCES COST

Included in the program submitted to the White House are

THE TRUTH ABOUT GM'S C OF L ADJUSTMENT

Because of declining living costs the last several months, as reflected by the price index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, General Motors workers will get a downward adjustment in wages during March, in accordance with the provisions of their 1948 contract.

The adjustment will be two or three cents an hour, depending on changes in the index for January, 1949, which will be reported the latter part of this month.

On December 15, the BLS index stood at 171.4 per cent of the 1935-39 average. If it remains the same in January, the adjustment will be two cents an hour. If the index goes below 170.4, it will be three cents an hour.

FORESAW POSSIBILITY

The possibility of such a downward adjustment, if prices went down, was foreseen last May by both the GM workers when they voted to accept the agreement, and by union officials who negotiated the contract.

Nobody likes a wage cut, but the plain and simple truth is that, with this adjustment, GM workers will have the same "real" wage position that they had when they received an initial 11 cents an hour increase last June and an additional three cents an hour in September. The

amount of money in the pay envelope will be slightly less, but it will buy just as much as it did in September, 1948.

At the end of May, the GM workers will get an additional three cents an hour increase, regardless of any changes in the price index.

GM BROKE FRONT

When the General Motors workers won their wage increase last year, they smashed through big business' united front against any wage increase in 1948. Despite the continuing increase in prices, at that time, the steel industry had turned down the steel workers, who were bound by a no-strike clause.

General Electric, Westinghouse and other corporations in the electrical industry had flatly turned down the United Electrical Workers, and negotiations had been recessed.

The Meat Barons were attempting to break the Packinghouse Workers' Union which, after a bitter 67-day strike, settled for a nine-cent an hour wage increase.

The Ford Motor Company had demanded that Ford workers take a wage cut.

Chrysler had insulted the Chrysler workers with a measly six-cent offer, and the Chrysler workers had hit the bricks.

In the midst of this situation, the wage settlement in General Motors broke the logjam, smashed the opposition, and established a

nation-wide wage increase pattern of between 10 and 13 cents an hour.

In the light of these conditions existing at the time of the GM settlement, the GM agreement was an important step forward—not only for GM workers—but for organized labor as a whole. Despite these facts, there is a small group of Communists and other political opportunists who are trying to make political capital of the cost-of-living decline and to belittle the GM settlement of last year.

They are the ones described by the International Officers in a letter last month to the local unions as the "summer soldiers, the fair weather militants."

"During the period when the contracts are closed, they are full of militance, full of criticism of the contracts and of those who negotiated them," the officers pointed out. "Then, when the contracts are open and we have a chance to make improvements to correct some of the things that are wrong, they suddenly lose their militance."

"They not only don't support the negotiating committees, but they even discourage strike votes by local unions to back up the demands—as they did last year in several General Motors plants—and when the proposed settlements are presented to the workers, they still keep their mouths shut. But after the workers have voted overwhelmingly to accept the settlements and the contracts are closed, they again become super-militants and start the propaganda mills grinding once more."

VOTED AGAINST STRIKE

The officers specifically pointed out that among this group of critics are leaders of a few GM local unions who voted against strike action in 1948.

But the GM workers know the facts and know the truth. They know they voted for the GM agreement last year with their eyes wide open. Nobody tried to sell it to them. Those representing them in negotiations explained the proposed agreement frankly and honestly. They pointed out its defects as well as its virtues.

The International Officers are confident that the membership of the UAW-CIO will not be fooled or divided by the "fair weather militants" as our union prepares to go forward in 1949 and win pension plans and social security for our members.

For fuller details on Reuther's plan for homes, jobs and planes, turn to Page 8.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946.

Of United Automobile Worker, published monthly at Indianapolis, Ind., for September 30, 1948.

State of Michigan }
County of Wayne } ss:

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Frank Winn, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the United Automobile Worker and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semi-weekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946, (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, CIO, 411 W. Milwaukee, Detroit 2, Mich.

Editor, Frank Winn, 411 W. Milwaukee, Detroit 2, Mich.

Managing Editor, Barney B. Taylor, 411 W. Milwaukee, Detroit 2, Mich.

Business Manager, Frank Winn, 411 W. Milwaukee, Detroit 2, Mich.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, CIO, 411 W. Milwaukee, Detroit 2, Mich.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockhold-

ers, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

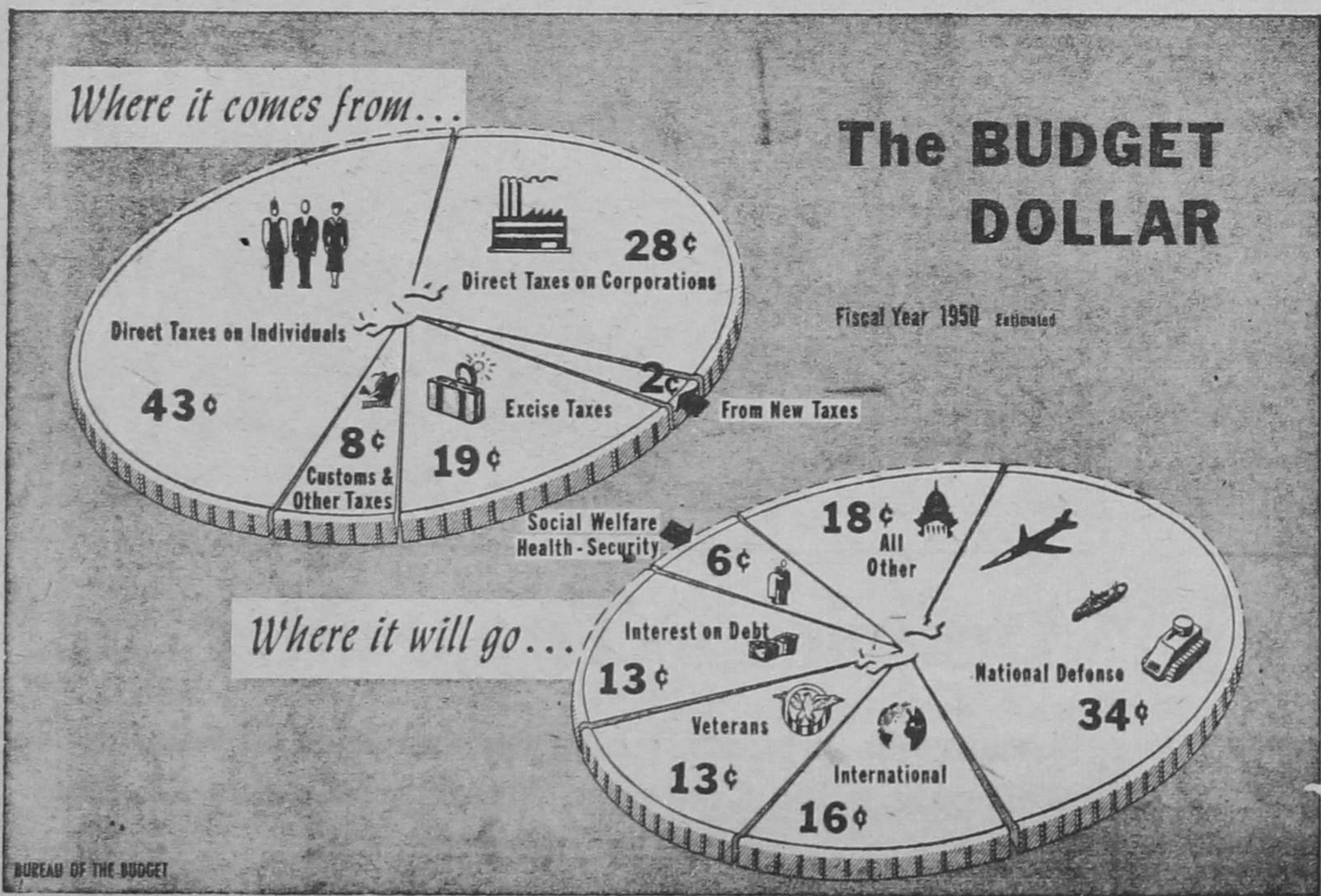
5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is— (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of September, 1948.

FRANK WINN,
Notary Public.

My commission expires June 21, 1952.

[SEAL]
Wayne Co., Mich.



International Conference Is Called On Economic Objectives for 1949

Ford to Check Off Local Assessments

Refusal by the Ford Motor Company to check off local union assessments is unjustified, UAW-CIO Ford Umpire Harry Shulman has ruled.

The issue arose when the company contended that deduction of local assessments might be illegal under the terms of the Taft-Hartley Act. The act forbids collection by companies from employees' money to be paid or delivered to any representative of any of his employees, except in certain cases, including collection of "membership dues in a labor organization."

Ford representatives in the umpire hearing expressed the fear that they might be prosecuted by the government if they collected local union assessments.

Umpire Shulman pointed out that the Department of Justice has issued a statement expressing the opinion that this section of the law does not prohibit the collection of assessments and that the UAW-CIO Constitution includes assessments within the meaning of "membership dues."

Jersey Workers Vote UAW-CIO

Martin Gerber, director of Region 9, reports a UAW victory by a 141 to 4 vote in an NLRB election at Warren Pipe and Foundry Corporation, Mt. Hope Mine, Wharton, New Jersey.

The detailed economic program for 1949 formulated by the International Executive Board will be presented to an International UAW-CIO Conference on Economic Objectives for 1949 in Detroit, February 19.

Highlights of the program to be submitted are:

An employer-financed pension program that will provide a \$100 minimum monthly pension at age 60 for employees with 25 years of service and graduated pensions at age 60 for employees with less than 25 years of service.

A comprehensive hospital and medical care program, including sickness, disability, death and other related benefits financed by the employer on the basis of five per cent of payroll for all employees in the bargaining units covered by the plan. The \$100 monthly minimum pension is in addition to payments under the Federal Social Security Act.

A cost-of-living adjustment, as previously announced, to restore the buying power of wages to the June, 1946, level before OPA was destroyed.

The conference was called by the UAW-CIO Policy Committee after it had approved the detailed program. The conference will include representatives from all corporation councils, from single local unions representing all workers in major companies and additional representatives on a regional basis to represent workers in miscellaneous companies not included in the first two categories.

TRUST FUNDS

In the case of both the pension plan and the social security plan, the IEB program provides for the establishment of a trust fund and employer payments into the fund with the provision that the funds cannot be used except for payment of pensions or social security benefits and related purposes to employees covered by the two plans.

The funds and the programs would be administered by Boards of Trustees on which the union would have equal representation with management.

In a statement of the program, the Policy Committee said:

OLD AGE SECURITY

"The purpose of the pension demand is to achieve old age retirement security.

"The purpose of the social security demand is to achieve income maintenance during periods of disability for reasons of sickness or accident, comprehensive hospital and medical care programs, death and other related benefits."

The pension demand also includes a provision for protecting the rights of workers in case of death or permanent severance from employment prior to retirement age.

The conference is planned for one day, beginning at 10 a. m., Saturday morning, February 19.

In an Administrative Letter to all local unions, President Reuther wrote:

"Local union officers and bargaining committees should guard

GM Rate Cutting Stopped By Strike Vote Threat

An attempt by General Motors management to cut rates on trim jobs in Fisher Body plants was promptly and effectively squelched last month after local unions were advised by the UAW-CIO GM Department to take strike votes.

In addition to stopping the wage cuts proposed by management, the union won in the course of the same negotiations wage increases amounting to as much as 11 cents an hour for gate installers on the balloon fixtures.

TEN-CENT CUT

The controversy arose when the old method of installing trim in

nearly all Fisher bodies was eliminated and a simpler method introduced. In most plants local management then submitted new rates and classifications to Shop Committees amounting to as much as ten cents an hour less than the old rates.

The union refused to accept the newly-proposed rates.

"The change in method of installing trim produces a better quality product and adds to the corporation's over-all efficiency," T. A. Johnstone, Assistant Director of the union's GM Department, told local unions in a letter advising them to take strike votes.

PROFIT FROM WORKERS

"From these sources alone the corporation's return is more than adequate without seeking still further gain at the workers' expense through a wage reduction," Johnstone said. "Corporate profits reached an all-time high level in 1948 and if recent utterances by corporation officials are to be believed, the year 1949 promises to be even more profitable."

Johnstone's letter to the local unions was sent on January 28, after management had refused to deal with problems on an over-all corporation level and insisted that the dispute would have to be resolved at the local level.

Three days after the letter went to local unions, the corporation reversed its position and agreed to continue the old rate.

against widespread efforts of employers and insurance companies to undermine our bargaining position by seeking approval of local unions to patching up existing 'company group insurance plans'.

"UAW-CIO policy requires that local unions make no agreements or give approval to changes in company or employer group insurance plans or other related benefits outside or prior to negotiations; and that all such matters be covered as a part of the collective bargaining contract.

"When new contracts are negotiated, provisions covering pension plans and Social Security matters must conform to International policy and must meet the basic minimum standards as outlined by the International Executive Board. To insure that these standards and policies are met, all contract provisions dealing with pensions and Social Security matters must be cleared with your Regional Director or Department Head before they are approved."

Canadian Ford Workers Hear Bargaining Solidarity Pledge

Walter P. Reuther, International President of the UAW-CIO, promised Canadian UAW members this month that no contract with Ford would be signed on either side of the international boundary until all Ford workers had been granted the same benefits.

Reuther spoke before a membership meeting of Canadian Ford Locals 200 and 240 in Windsor.

At Auto Worker press time, Local 200 and Local 240 members were conducting a three-day secret ballot on whether they approved their International Board's economic program for pensions, social security and wage increases in 1949 negotiations. Leaders in both locals predicted a "near 100 per cent approval." There are close to 13,000 workers in the two groups. Local 240 covers the office workers.

SAME DEMANDS

Demands on Canadian automom-

bile manufacturers will be the same as on the American corporations, the UAW President said. Ford of Canada members will demand the same \$100 a month pensions for workers who retire at 60, and complete medical, hospital, health and disability, and life insurance benefits, he said.

Where U. S. workers will also ask wage increases which will restore the purchasing power of their dollars to the OPA level, Canadian members will work out their wage

demands based on Canadian conditions.

PART POLITICAL FIGHT

He warned that part of the fight for pensions and social security has to be made in the political field. Industry is politically conscious, but the workers are not, he said. "We have got to make legislation fight for the needs of the people, not let it be used, as it has been and is being used, to amass profits for the few at the expense of the little guys of the world."

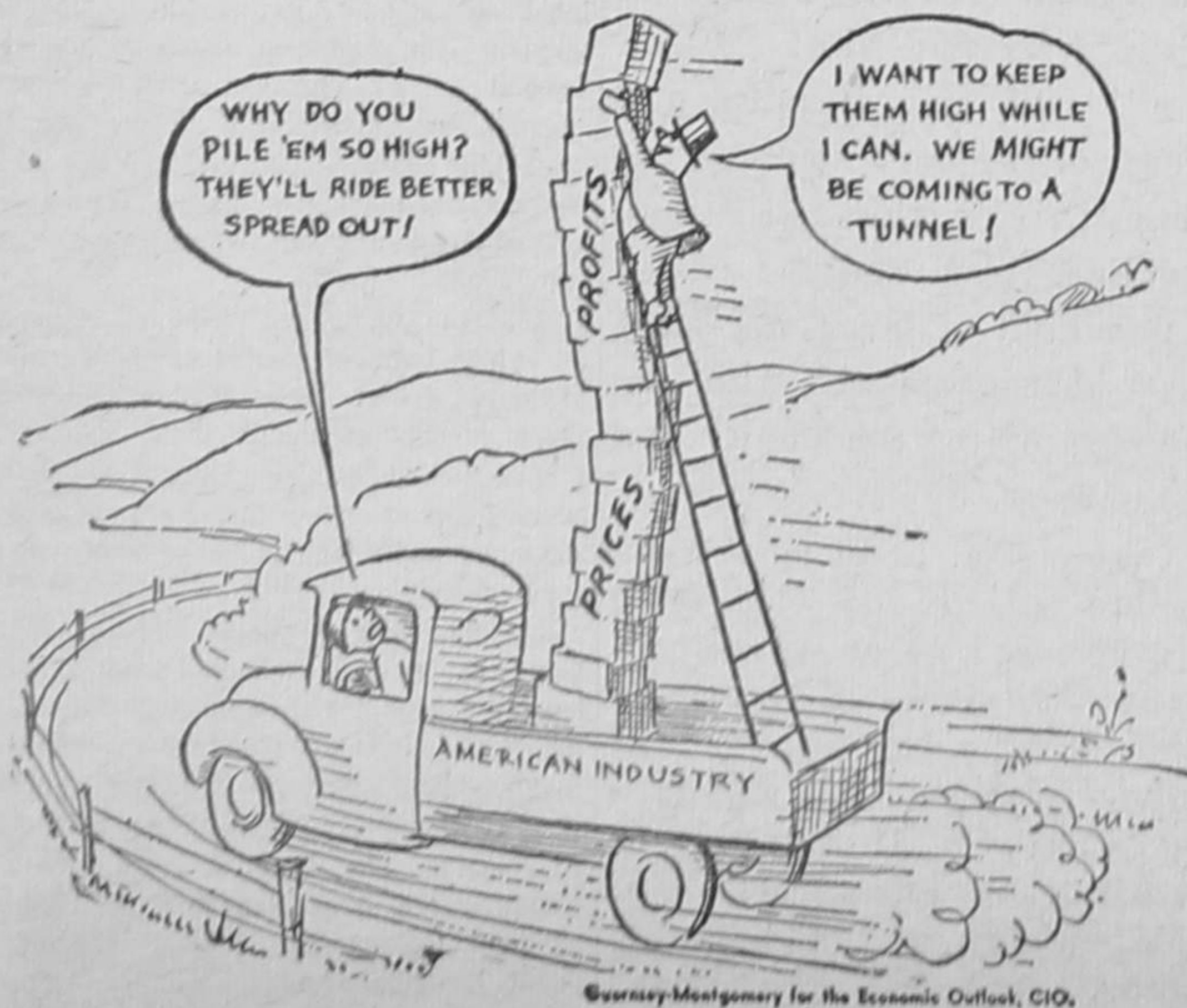
"I am certain that the workers of Windsor and those on the other side can all win this thing together!"

Strike Averted At Studebaker

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (LPA)—A near-perfect record of never having a labor-management dispute reach the strike stage was maintained last week by Local 5, United Auto Workers-CIO, and the Studebaker Corp.

With more than 10,000 of the 16,000 production workers crowded in and around union hall, the local decided to accept an agreement whereby 43 men, fired for refusing to do new work at a new rate, were reinstated. The argument began when the men were put to work on a new kind of seat cover, at rates lower than they had previously been paid.

Now the union officers, with authorization to take a strike vote at any time, will meet with management, including Studebaker President Harold S. Vance, to discuss how to revise piece-work standards in the plant.



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Town Meeting Tonight!
Town Meeting Tonight!

"Should We Adopt a Compulsory National Health Insurance Program?"

UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther and Oscar Ewing will say YES on the American Broadcasting Company's nation-wide program—

"America's Town Meeting"
Tuesday, February 22, from 8:30 to 9:30 P. M., Eastern Standard Time

Other participants in the debate will be:

Dr. Morris Fishbein and Senator H. Alexander Smith, Republican, New Jersey

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKER

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 Editorial Office: 411 West Milwaukee, Detroit

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**Wrong Men on His Own Staff
 Are Danger to Truman Program**

(The by-line of Nathan Robertson has, for many years, been seen on significant news reports from Capitol Hill. Robertson was chief of PM's Washington bureau, and before that, chief of the AP Senate staff. He is now writing regularly for Labor Press Associates and this paper.)

**By Nathan Robertson
 WASHINGTON (LPA)—** President Truman's "fair deal" program is running into trouble—trouble chiefly generated by the Chief Executive's own inept or conservative assistants.

Throughout the campaign last fall, which resulted in his triumphant re-election, the President talked about higher taxes in terms of an excess profits tax. Everybody supposed he would ask Congress again for the kind of a modified excess profits tax he requested last year. Corporate profits are even higher than they were last year. If an excess profits tax was needed last year, it is doubly-needed this year.

On Capitol Hill the President's strongest supporters were ready to go in the fight for an excess profits tax. Rep. John D. Dingell (D., Mich.), Rep. Herman P. Eberharter (D., Pa.) and Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D., Wyo.), three of the President's most powerful spokesmen on the hill, had prepared excess profits tax bills, in preparation for the President's message.

SNYDER IS ONE

To their surprise, and everyone else's, the President recommended higher taxes, but not an excess profits tax. I don't pretend to know what happened to the President's plan for an excess profits tax. But Drew Pearson has publicly charged that it was sabotaged by Treasury Secretary John Snyder, the con-

servative friend of Mr. Truman's who has sabotaged so many other liberal programs.

Pearson charged Snyder had even clamped down on his treasury tax experts to prevent them from conferring with the President's staff or administration leaders on the subject of an excess profits tax. If this is true, it warrants a major house-cleaning by the President—and quick.

I don't know the facts of Pearson's charges, but I believe them because I saw with my own eyes how Snyder sabotaged last year's excess profits tax proposal by the President. At that time, I went to the hill to cover Snyder's opening testimony on the bill before the House Ways and Means Committee, because I have always made a specialty of tax legislation. To my amazement, I found Snyder virtually killing the President's plan with faint praise. He did nothing to back up the President's recommendation, giving impetus to the rumors that the President's plan was based on nothing but politics. Actually, the President's plan was backed by sound economic facts, and Snyder could have made a tremendous case for it.

When the bill reached the Senate, I went up again, thinking perhaps Snyder had not made a fight in the House because he felt it was hopeless. But, to my further amazement, he didn't even appear in the Senate hearings—and let the battle go by default. As my friends know, it was this experience, more than anything else, that convinced me last year President Truman could not be re-elected. I felt if he wouldn't fight for his own plans, or make his assistants fight, he had no chance.

FOLEY ANOTHER

Labor Press Associates and union housing experts have helped to expose another front on which

the President is being sabotaged by his own assistants—housing. Ray Foley, director of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, has helped write a bill, introduced by Sen. Ellender (D., La.), which friends of housing feel plays into the hands of the housing lobby—one of the most powerful and selfish in Washington.

YIELD ON HEALTH

Still a third front on which the President's aides are not really fighting his cause is the medical front. The President has demanded that Congress act without further delay on a bill to set up a nationwide health insurance program. Powerful support for this legislation is being mobilized by the Committee for the Nation's Health, which is fighting the American Medical Association's \$3,000,000 lobby drive against the bill. Polls indicate the public is for the legislation. But some of the Administration's top officials act as though they never heard the President—or the people.

Two other fronts are worth watching for the same kind of sabotage. They are the President's program for a Columbia Valley Authority, and his suggestion that if the steel companies won't expand production, the government will. Both of these proposals are controversial, both are opposed by conservatives, but both are for the common good. In that sense they belong with the others mentioned here.

Washington observers were tremendously impressed by the fight the President made for reelection. They hoped it would carry into the battle for his program. But the President's reelection fight was a single-handed battle which Mr. Truman was able to carry alone. He cannot carry the fight with Congressional conservatives and the powerful special interest lobbies all alone. Here he must have help. He is not getting the kind of help he needs from his cabinet.

Editorial . . .

Growing Unemployment—A Danger Signal

Unemployment in the United States is one of the principal products of the steel industry.

The UAW-CIO and the CIO have repeatedly warned Congress and the nation that the failure of the steel industry to expand its capacity is a road block in the way of our expanding economy and will inevitably lead us into another depression if it isn't corrected. In his State of the Union Message, President Truman called on Congress to take the necessary steps to bring about needed expansion of steel capacity, either through private industry or, failing that, by direct government action.

CONCEALED UNTIL NOW

Since V-J Day, the effects of inadequate steel capacity on employment were partially concealed from the general public because they were reflected largely in temporary layoffs and short work weeks. Now they are assuming a more visible and, it is to be feared, a more permanent form.

Unemployment in the United States is growing and its growth is a danger signal that must be heeded if we are to avert another depression.

POSTWAR PEAK FOR JOBLESS

The latest U. S. Bureau of Census showed unemployment nationally has climbed to a postwar peak of 2,650,000. Unemployment is also reaching into the automobile industry, into automobile industry communities. Several thousand tool and diemakers and related skilled workers are laid off in the Detroit area. There is growing unemployment among production workers throughout most industries.

Leon Keyserling, Vice-Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, warned Congress on February 8 that our failure to maintain prosperity on a steadily rising scale of output will permit the depression of the 1930's to happen again—and that, said Keyserling, will cost this country 800 BILLION DOLLARS! (See story on Page 5.)

As one of the most important contributing factors to such a catastrophe, Keyserling listed the failure of basic industries, including steel, to expand their productive capacity in line with national needs.

STEEL STRAITJACKET

Economists have long since discovered that steel production is the key to employment in the United States in this technical, machine age. Employment rises and falls in direct proportion to steel production, and when we reach the point, as we have today, where steel capacity is inadequate to provide continuous full employment, then the steel industry is acting as a strait-jacket on the American economy.

The UAW-CIO is not going to let up in its fight for expanded steel capacity. We are conducting now, through our local unions, a survey on the effect of the steel shortage, directly or indirectly, on employment in our industry. We are going to use the information gained from the survey and every other weapon at our disposal to back up 100 per cent President Truman's proposal to Congress.

We are going to do our part to see to it that the steel industry manufactures STEEL—and not unemployment.

"He Was There When the Union Came to Town . . ."

Here's a Book About a Guy and His Union

Union guy Clayton W. Fountain came down out of Michigan's north woods during the depression in search of some of those automobile company pay checks. He found a job all right, but it wasn't quite the deal he expected. The hours were long, the work hard and grinding, the foremen abusive—and there was always the eternal speedup and the inevitable layoff.

So when the Union came to town, Clay Fountain was ready. Like a number of fellow unionists of the "early days," he had his neck out a mile and, not for any man, would he pull it back. He stuck with the United Automobile Workers right on down to this very day.

All of the drama of the founding of a great organization and how it grew and why is put down in Clayton Fountain's new book called, rightly enough, "Union Guy."

"Union Guy" is Fountain's own story of his youth, his struggle with poverty and his efforts to find freedom and security and a direction for his life—which he failed to find in a brief sojourn in the Communist Party. It is his story of

"Union Guy," by Clayton W. Fountain, is published by Viking Press, New York; price, \$2.75. Union members can get the book at a 20 per cent discount from the UAW-CIO Book Store, 5021 Woodward Ave., Detroit 2, Mich. Mail orders are accepted.

the United Automobile Workers-CIO.

It's all there. The sit-downs, the huge organizing drives—GM, Ford, Chrysler—the picket-line battles, the victory over Homer Martin's would-be dictatorship, the conventions, the factional fights are told with intimate first-hand detail in an absorbing narrative. UAW old-timers and relative newcomers alike will find that "Union Guy" will give them a new sense of appreciation for all those things that went into building UAW and the CIO—a new kind of labor movement that identifies itself with the interests of the community and the nation.

Clayton W. Fountain, an associate editor of the **Auto Worker**, is now on Vice-President John W. Livingston's staff, doing a travelling job of public relations. His standard equipment, as thousands of auto workers know, consists of a typewriter, a camera and a guitar.

GOSSER ASKS OHIO UC CHANGES

TOLEDO, O.—The Ohio state legislature is considering the proposed changes approved by the United Labor Committee and presented by International Vice-President Richard Gosser of the UAW-CIO, to liberalize the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Act.

The legislative group has reacted favorably to amendments to the act, which would increase the minimum from \$5 to \$21 and raise the maximum from \$21 to \$37.50. Vice-President Gosser's proposal would also extend the benefit weeks from 21 to 52 and also allow an additional \$3 for each dependent.

Under the present obsolete set-up, as an example, a laid-off toolmaker would be compelled to accept a lower grade and lower paying job, when offered or referred to by the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Bureau. Gosser said the bureau should offer work comparable to his usual trade or occupation in wages earned and work performed.

The proposed changes ask repeal of the former section and also striking from the statutes the section which prohibits an employe from collecting benefits by reasons of a labor dispute at the factory, establishment or other premises of work.

Under the proposed plan, the benefits would not exceed 75 per cent of the total wages paid each employe in covered employment during his base period. The plan was drafted by Mr. Gosser and approved by the United Labor Committee, an organization composed of the CIO, AFL, MESA and Railroad Brotherhoods.

Conference Hears Ickes Proposal For Huge Education Trust Fund

The man who fought successfully to save the vast tidelands oil resources from private exploitation has proposed that "the federal government create a trust out of these oil lands," which will "provide the children of the people with the education that is particularly essential in the democratic form of government."

Former Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, addressing the UAW-CIO-International Education Conference in Milwaukee, January 23, estimated the oil resources would provide more than 27 billion dollars for education.

Ickes warned that "ignorant people" would "govern themselves ignorantly" and that by 1955, seven million more children would be waiting for admission to public schools. He said there was a current shortage of 105,000 teachers. "One of the most ominous aspects of the late and now, more or less, decently interred 80th Congress," Ickes said, "was the contrast of the speed with which it hastened to lay out 13½ billions of dollars for instruments of war and the military training of our young manhood, while at the same time balking at \$300,000,000 for federal aid to education."

LINCOLN HAILS CO-OPS

Earlier, the conference heard

Murray Lincoln, President of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, call the cooperative movement "a healthy factor in our economic life. Its emphasis on self-help—its essentially Christian philosophy—and its practical application to so many human needs—merits encouragement by your organization. Cooperatives are effecting the kind of economic democracy we must have if political democracy and our private enterprise system are to survive."

LYND AND LATIMER SPEAK

Robert S. Lynd, author of "Middletown, USA" and Columbia University sociologist, warned of the real danger from the "task forces" of the National Association of Manufacturers, and called on organized labor for increased political action. Mr. Lynd favored the creation of an independent labor party.

Addressing the conference panel on Social Security, Murray Latimer, nationally known Social Security expert, said, "Some hope that legislative processes wouldn't leave much room for collective bargaining. That just isn't so."



HAROLD L. ICKES



George Baldanzi, Vice-President, Textile Workers Union of America, CIO.

TEXTILE UNION LEADER TALKS ON FOREIGN POLICY

"Labor carries a credential which is more acceptable to the people of Europe than that presented by the conventional diplomat," Textile Worker Vice-President George Baldanzi declared in a key speech before the UAW National Education Conference in Milwaukee.

Long known as a strong advocate of closer collaboration between American and European trade unions, Baldanzi endorsed the statement made by Supreme Court Justice William Douglas at the CIO convention in Portland that changed conditions have made labor "peculiarly qualified to bridge a gap that has been growing between the United States and Europe."

NEW LEADERS

The war, Baldanzi declared, has produced a generation of new and hardened labor leaders in Europe, men as determined to resist totalitarianism as they are to fight a return of unbridled, dog-eat-dog capitalism.

Opposed to any attempt to strong-arm European countries into restructuring capitalism as the price of Marshall aid, the TWUA vice-pres-

ident said, "If it takes democratic socialism to meet the needs of the people of Europe, then let them have democratic socialism."

RELIEF TO RECOVERY

In general, Baldanzi estimated, Marshall funds had succeeded in changing the European problem from one of relief to recovery, but that there is still a long way to go. Even 1952, he felt, might not see the end of internal readjustment and reorganization.

Labor's support of European aid does not stop with participation in the Marshall Plan, he added. Direct support, in goods and money, has been given to European unions, while the CIO's Amalgamated Clothing Workers have sponsored establishment of a large cooperative clothing factory in northern Italy.

WORKERS NIX CLASSES TAILORED TO SUIT GM

Not one student showed up as the University of Michigan opened its first class following "reorganization" of Workers Education Service to suit the whims of the General Motors Corporation and its President C. E. Wilson.

One lone unidentified "student" showed up for the second class.

"The University of Michigan program is not acceptable," said Vic-

tor G. Reuther, director of the UAW-CIO Education Department. "The program was devised and classes reopened arbitrarily without approval of the Labor Advisory Council. The discharging of the staff, including its director, Arthur Elder, without hearing or specification of any charges, is certainly no assurance of future academic freedom."

MANAGEMENT BIAS

"The Board of Regents has shown a distinct bias for management. They have set up classes for real estate agents, conducted by private real estate men, and classes for Board of Commerce representatives, conducted by businessmen—but will not permit classes of workers to be taught by workers or representatives of workers."

Earlier, Barney Hopkins, secretary of the Michigan State CIO, had declared, "CIO members will not participate in any program that is cleared only with General Motors Corporation and not with the Advisory Council set up for that purpose."

AFL STAYS OUT

An editorial in the *Detroit Labor News*, official AFL paper, said, "Maybe the spring election will give the people of Michigan some new blood on the Board of Regents. Goodness knows it's needed!"



Murray Lincoln, President of the Ohio Farm Bureau, is addressing the Education Conference delegates. From left, seated, are George Burt, UAW Region 7 Director, Victor G. Reuther, UAW Education Department Director and UAW-CIO Vice-President John W. Livingston.

From "Textile Labor" (TWUA-CIO):

WHO WANTS A BUICK?

Frustrated Autoist Looks at GM "Progress"—and Can't See It

By KENNETH FIESTER

The other day General Motors took full-page ads in all the newspapers to brag about its automobiles.

These ads compared the 1928 Buick to the 1948 Chevrolet—complete with photographs and statistics. They were supposed to show that a modern Chevy is a better buy, for the same price, than a 20-year-old Buick.

Maybe the ads had a good effect on some readers, but they were no hit with this car-lover. It seemed to me that General Motors was backing up my big gripe against the auto industry.

PROGRESS IN REVERSE

If \$1,300 couldn't buy a better car today than it bought in 1928, General Motors would be out of business—or ought to be. This kind of improvement is part of American life. We not only expect it; we demand it.

The significant point, it seems to me, is that General Motors' cheapest product now sells for

the same price as its quality machine commanded two decades back. This is progress in reverse.

To get down to cases: What is General Motors offering for \$700, which is about what a Chevy brought in 1928? The answer is, "Nothing."

BUT NO CHEVY

It's hard to see how the company has the courage to brag. Today's Buick is called Chevrolet; it's faster, better-looking and easier on gas than the '28 model. So what? The trouble is, there aren't any Chevies any more.

General Motors can't very well use the argument about "higher costs" in this case. If the company can put out a better car for \$1,300 than it did 20 years ago, it ought to be able to put out a better \$700 car, too. But General Motors isn't doing it. Neither is Ford, Chrysler or any of the others.

A good many prospective car-owners, including this one, want to know why not. And what's more important, a good many of us are going to wait until we get

an answer in the form of a \$700 car.

If General Motors won't make one, maybe someone else will. Otherwise, a lot of us will keep on strap-hanging; and the record car output predicted for this year may go begging for buyers.



Regional Director Pat Greathouse welcomes conference delegates to Region 4 and Milwaukee.

"Homes for People, Planes for Peace, Jobs for Prosperity"

A Practical Program for Homes, Jobs and Planes

The following are excerpts from "HOMES FOR PEOPLE, PLANES FOR PEACE, JOBS FOR PROSPERITY," a plan to provide America with 20,000,000 homes it needs, strengthen the sinews of peace and block the threat of mounting unemployment. The plan has been submitted to President Truman by UAW President Walter Reuther, chairman of the CIO National Housing Committee.

SURVIVAL—OR DEMOCRATIC SURVIVAL?

Military defense is imperative. Power to resist attack and carry a war, once it is started, to the enemy's homeland, is the only language understood by aggressor nations. Yet, democracy must speak another language as well. A free society must arm itself not only with the implements of war, but with the tools and accomplishments of peace. A military program which is not directly and consciously linked with these vital ends of democratic living may guarantee survival; it will not guarantee survival under conditions tolerable to free men. It may even lead to the corruption from within of those institutions it professes to protect from external attack.

75% FOR WAR, 1% FOR HOMES

Viewed in this perspective, current proposals for military preparedness represent a lame and only partial response to democracy's crisis. That crisis may well endure beyond the life of armaments now contracted for. Its internal aspects can no longer be neglected, for already they match in seriousness the external threat. A startling vision of the disproportion in resources devoted to combatting the danger from within as against the danger external to us is projected by federal budget for the fiscal year 1950. The blunt figures spell out potential disaster: 75 per cent of total government expenditures will be channeled into payment for war or the threat of war; less than one per cent will flow into housing or community development.

A program of action aimed both at defense against external aggression and at repairing the inner damage to democracy's self assurance is a more sensible and hopeful bulwark against the inroads of Communism than witch-hunts and hysteria. It would weld the vital necessity of military preparedness to the inescapable challenge of peaceful accomplishment. It would demonstrate to ourselves and the world that democracy does not wait passively for inevitable doom, but instead moves out to shape the future in freedom's image.

Such a program is possible. Its outlines are apparent in the area where the aircraft industry and the construction industry meet. Its elements emerge from an examination of two urgent current needs: America's need for planes, and its need for homes.

HOMES AND PLANES FOR PEACE

What is the most imperative need of the American people, if we conceive of ourselves as a nation prepared against war but intent on peace? It will not be questioned, outside of the disciplined ranks of the professional exploiters of the housing shortage, that this most imperative need is homes. **FIRST**, enough homes. **SECOND**, homes at a cost within reach of the purse of every American family, since all need shelter. **THIRD**, homes built for family living, not for speculation at the expense of the prospective owner and of the community. **FOURTH**, homes as related parts of neighborhoods, of wholesome communities, of cities. The failure of the private building industry to meet these minimal standards of civilized living is not a momentary lapse from normal performance: It is a permanent and inseparable aspect of the industry's ingrained and antiquated approach to the job. The private building industry

can no more satisfy the national demand for housing than the private aircraft industry could satisfy the national need for defense without government planning and support.

What is more logical, then, than a government program which would meet the national need for both air defense and housing, by using the war-expanded facilities of the aircraft industry, now idle or only partially utilized, to build both planes and homes?

A government-coordinated housing program utilizing the excess capacity of the airframe and aircraft engine plants will achieve two important ends: It will permit balanced air force procurement from an aircraft industry fully manned and prepared for instant conversion—and it will develop the national momentum without which the most crucial mass need of peace—the need for homes—will never be met by private builders.

Through such a program, this nation can meet the threat of war without neglecting the continuing imperative of peace. Through it, we can confront the outer peril without succumbing to our most serious inner weakness, the lack of a national policy which gives a basic need of the masses of people priority over the speculative drive of a profiteering minority.

WHO OWNS THE PLANT RESERVES?

The plant reserve of the aircraft industry is at least 90 per cent public property, in any sensible meaning of the term. The whole industry is "affected with a public interest"; it is a public utility in function and strategic importance, however stubbornly its nominal owners may cling to the forms and slogans of private business. The disposition of its reserve is, therefore, a public matter. It must be used to serve a public need, not to nourish private power or fortune.

THE HOUSING TRAGEDY

The lack of decent housing within economic reach of all American families may once have been a national scandal. It is now a national tragedy. No amount of propaganda by real estate and mortgage lobbyists can conceal the utter failure of the private building industry to make modern, decent, low-cost shelter available to the average family.

Every estimate of the national housing need is far above the actual and potential performance of the private building industry.

It is inconceivable that such an industry will ever get around to replacing the 7,500,000 slum dwellings that ought to be torn down, the additional 4,500,000 dwellings that need major repairs, or the 15,000,000 non-farm homes that are more than 35 years old.

TO PUT THE PLAN IN GEAR

The Congressional Aviation Policy Board, in cooperation with the President's Air Policy Commission, would determine the amount of floor space needed to satisfy the combined demand for aircraft of the Air Force, the Navy, the National Guard and commercial carriers.

The floor space and facilities not needed for the military and commercial aircraft production program will be assigned to a National Housing Authority, an agency which will incorporate all the housing activities of the federal government. This housing authority would take the unused floor space out of idle reserve and maintain it and its equipment in an active stand-by condition, through a mass-production housing program.

The most significant result of such a housing program, from the military standpoint, would be the resulting mobilization of a labor force possessing

the skills for rapid conversion to aircraft production in the event of an emergency. Both the Air Policy Commission and the Congressional Aviation Policy Board have underscored the importance of such a work force.

NEW TECHNIQUES, NEW MATERIALS, NEW JOBS

The National Housing Authority would mobilize research and engineering skills in housing comparable to the skills now brought to bear on bomber and fighter design and production. A technical commission within the authority would investigate and work on every aspect of home-building—methods of construction, materials, design, community planning—toward the end of making available to American families, a sound, up-to-date, low-cost house embodying the quality of technical know-how and efficiency which produced the B-36 and the atom bomb. The proposition that an investment in wholesome living is worth as much outlay of talent and planning as our late wartime investment in wholesale death and destruction will not be controverted by any citizen in command of his rational faculties and democratic instincts.

The President's message to Congress called for the creation of at least a million new jobs. The contribution of the homes-and-planes program to the accomplishments of this objective would be enormous. Properly timed in its application and expansion, the program offers both a constructive source of new employment and a flexible instrument for leveling off fluctuations in employment brought about by seasonal or cyclical factors in private industry.

A BALANCED PROGRAM FOR HOMES AND PREPAREDNESS

There will be those who will claim that such a plan is impractical, just as there were those who alleged that the automobile industry could not be converted to a war footing, when that proposal was advanced in the summer of 1940, a year and a half before Pearl Harbor.

Yet, whatever is necessary to nourish democracy at its roots is surely practical. The standards of practicality badly need definition if the national toll in health, dignity, stability and confidence arising from bad housing can be regarded as practical.

Is it practical to expect the private building industry to supply the national need for 20,000,000 homes in the next 10 years, when that industry cannot even keep pace with the formation of new families annually? Is it practical to expect that the private building industry can supply the low-rental market, when that industry is currently offering 80 per cent of new rental units to that half of the nation's families with an income above \$2,500 and only 20 per cent of such units to the half of the nation's families with incomes less than \$2,500?

Almost every analysis and forecast with respect to home-building assumes a continuation of the current practices of the construction industry.

SURVIVAL IS NOT ENOUGH

The deepest practicality of the planes-and-homes plan is that it does not throw peace overboard. It offers the promise of an adequate air establishment and a down-to-earth attack on our greatest home front evil, all without a reckless squandering of our substance in a fatalistic march to global suicide.

The plan raises, it is true, a fundamental question for our policy makers and for the American people as a whole. For it is based on the assumption that we, as a nation, are interested, not in mere survival in the air age, but in democratic survival.

STRONG RENT CONTROL BILL IS SUPPORTED

WASHINGTON—Full CIO support for a new and stronger Rent Control Bill to take the place of the present law which expires March 31, was pledged by UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther, Chairman of the CIO Housing Committee. The new bill was introduced by Senator Francis J. Myers (D., Pa.) and Representative Helen Gahagan Douglas (D., Calif.). It would establish a completely new rent law.

The purpose of the bill as stated in the Declaration of Purposes includes the "stabilization of rents for housing accommodations; (to) prevent speculative, unwarranted

and abnormal increases in rents; to prevent unwarranted evictions." The maximum rents established under the Act continue those in effect on March 31, 1949. For those

units re-controlled, the maximum rent shall be the higher of the rent of comparable accommodations in the defense rental area, plus due allowance, where new construction is involved for increases in construction costs or the maximum rent last in effect for the same unit.

The rents for those units covered by a 15 per cent voluntary lease shall continue in effect.

The bill includes federal controls for the District of Columbia and permits the Administrator to re-control areas which need stabilization or reduction of rents after 60 days' notice of the necessity therefor.

The bill establishes a National

Advisory Committee of 15 members, equally representative of landlords, tenants and the general public, with which the Administrator shall advise and consult before issuing any regulation or order of general applicability under the new law. Local advisory boards are continued but in an advisory capacity only.

Strong criminal penalties, including fines up to \$5,000 and jail terms up to a year are provided for those found guilty of wilful violation of the law.

Administration of the Act is put in the general charge of Administrator of the Office of Rent Control

at a salary of \$12,000 a year. The Administrator is to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate. The Administrator is given power to secure exact facts by use of subpoena if necessary for the proper administration of the Act. Any decision or regulation of the Administrator shall be subject to review in the courts upon the appeal of any person, including tenants. In the past, tenants have not been permitted participation in the legal review of the agency's rules and regulations.

The new bill permits the Administrator to establish rules and regulations governing evictions.

UAW-CIO OPENS DRIVE TO UNITE ALL FARM IMPLEMENT WORKERS

CHICAGO—A fast-moving campaign to unite all American farm implement workers under the banner of the CIO was launched on January 27, it was announced here at UAW-CIO Agricultural Implement Department headquarters.

The announcement was made by UAW-CIO Vice-President John W. Livingston, director of the union's Agricultural Implement Department.

COMPLETE THE JOB

"This campaign is going to keep rolling until we complete the job of uniting all American farm implement workers in the ranks of the UAW-CIO," Livingston declared.

"In the past," he said, "circumstances have delayed this long-overdue unification of farm implement workers in the ranks of the CIO, and their wages and working conditions have suffered because of this lack of unity.

"This time, CIO policy on the problem of unification is clear and plain for every worker to understand. The National CIO Executive Board, speaking the democratic will of six million organized workers, has directed FE to merge with the UAW-CIO."

DEFIANCE OF CIO

"FE was given 60 days in which to cooperate with the CIO to work this problem out peacefully and democratically," Livingston continued.

"But, instead of cooperating, the FE top leaders have chosen to defy the CIO. They have refused to discuss the problem with the committee appointed by CIO President Philip Murray for the purpose of assisting the merger.

"Their only response has been a stream of name-calling propaganda aimed at the UAW-CIO and the whole CIO. The 60-day period ended January 26.

"From here on out, the UAW-CIO is going to take its appeal for

unity directly to the rank-and-file membership of the FE locals."

PAPERS PASSED OUT

The campaign opened with distribution of a special edition of the "United Auto Worker" to workers in 12 FE plants located in four states.

Vice-President Livingston, accompanied by Pat Greathouse, Director of UAW-CIO Region 4, personally led the crew of UAW-CIO members and organizers who passed out the papers at the gates of International Harvester's West Pullman Works in Chicago.

One of the FE leadership's "muscular reception committees" stood at the gates, grabbing papers away from workers and tearing them up and shouting, "Don't read that!"

EAGER FOR TRUTH

Despite this rude and undemocratic behavior of the FE leaders, nearly all of the workers eagerly accepted the papers and carried them into the plant. Many of the workers expressed eagerness to break through the FE "little iron curtain" and learn the truth about CIO policy.

Following the distribution, workers from a number of FE plants contacted UAW-CIO leaders and voiced their eagerness to set up committees to assist in speeding up the merger directed by national CIO policy.

The work of setting up these committees is proceeding, even in plants that were not covered by the January 27 distribution.



UAW-CIO organizers distributing leaflets at International Harvester Chicago Tractor Works (FE Local 101) February 3.

—Fountain Photo.

Wage-Hour Council Urges Swift UAW-CIO Action to Effect Merger

DETROIT—Delegates to the regular January meeting of the UAW-CIO Agricultural Implement Wage-Hour Council voted unanimously here January 15 to urge the International Union to promptly mobilize its full resources for the purpose of carrying out the CIO Executive Board resolution ordering the Farm Equipment Workers, CIO, to merge with the UAW-CIO.

The action was taken following receipt by several delegates of telegrams from FE-CIO local union leaders urging formation of a new CIO union in the farm equipment industry. The resolution adopted by the Council described the suggestion in these telegrams as a smoke-screen thrown out by FE-CIO leaders to confuse the issue.

Excerpts from the text of the resolution follow:

Whereas, Reliable reports have reached us that it is the intention of the FE leadership to steamroller through the FE convention in March a proposal to become an independent union so that they may at a later date affiliate with District 50 of the United Mine Workers or some other organization willing to meet the selfish job-seeking demands of the FE leadership.

The FE leadership has at the same time created a smoke-screen by promoting a scheme calling for one farm implement union embracing all farm implement plants presently chartered by any CIO international union. While this plan was conceived by the FE leadership, individual officers of the FE introduced the plan through a few FE local unions. Several telegrams endorsing this smoke-screen scheme have been sent to delegates of this conference for propaganda purposes; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this conference of UAW-CIO Agricultural Implement Wage and Hour Council call upon FE local unions and members to support the national CIO resolution and initiate every effort to effect unity in this industry, even though it must be done through an

NLRB election, and we further urge the International Union promptly to mobilize the full resources of our membership to carry out the intent of the CIO Executive Board resolution in all ways found necessary to assure the affiliation with UAW-CIO of all local unions in the farm implement industry; be it finally

Resolved, We pledge the resources and efforts of this Council to the implementation of the CIO Executive Board resolution.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS

Other resolutions passed by the conference included the following:

A request that the International Union increase its efforts to build farmer-labor unity; endorsement of the St. Lawrence Waterway to help expand employment for Canadian farm implement workers; endorsement of the UAW-CIO 1949 Wage Policy, and a repeated pledge to work for the establishment of industry-wide bargaining in the agricultural implement industry.

Bulletin

One hundred UAW organizers and members distributing literature at all five gates at Chicago's McCormick plant had a tremendously enthusiastic reception from the workers.

The night before, 75 stewards and committeemen from FE Local 108 (McCormick), agreed to work to install UAW-CIO as collective bargaining agent in line with CIO policy.

Is This Okay, Mr. Keller?

Chrysler Agents Indicted In West Coast Parts Gouge

Chrysler's replacement parts wholesalers in Washington State were accused of gouging over \$1 million from customers by the Seattle Federal Grand Jury in a criminal indictment handed down December 30th.

The indictment was directed against 17 associations, companies, and individuals who allegedly violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Law by acting monopolistically in selling Chrysler replacement parts and engines in Washington.

The Chrysler wholesalers are charged with monopolistic action which boosted the gross profit margins on replacement engines from 25 per cent to about 40 per cent, on competitively-produced parts from 66 per cent to over 74 per cent, and on exclusively Chrysler-made parts from 50 per cent to over 87 per cent in Western Washington and from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in Eastern Washington.

By getting together to "rig" prices and discounts, the parts wholesalers overcharged the Washington consuming public in excess of \$1 million on parts bills total-

ing \$9 million from November, 1946, through December, 1948, it is charged.

The indictment points out that Chrysler Corporation selected the defendant companies to be the exclusive outlets for replacement parts and engines in the state of Washington. Chrysler Corporation supplied the parts and engines from its plants throughout the United States during the time the alleged criminal acts took place but was not itself named a co-defendant.

The Chrysler Corporation, so far as could be learned, has taken no action to withdraw the franchises of its indicted dealers.

Individuals convicted of criminal anti-trust charges are liable to maximum penalties of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.



Walter Reuther pauses to chat with delegates following the UAW-CIO Agricultural Implement Wage-Hour Council Meeting in Detroit, January 15. Center, facing Reuther, are Coy Lutes and Howard Scamp, delegates from Local 974 (Caterpillar Tractor), Peoria, Ill.

—Fountain Photo.

An Auto Worker and Social Security

As workers in the auto industry go, Earl Zander, UAW-CIO Shop Steward and assembler at Kaiser-Frazer, is not so bad off.

As a matter of fact, he has a number of blessings.

He wasn't laid off when the ax fell recently on nearly 5,000 of his fellow-workers at K-F. He has five bright and handsome children. He has a home (for \$29.00 a month)—not nearly big enough, to be sure—in a government housing project. His alert and intelligent wife budgets his wages carefully and she keeps their four rooms neat and clean. He's a sober and hard working man himself.

ACCIDENT STARTS THOUGHT

Yet, just one year ago, he learned the meaning of insecurity. A brakeless car rolled off the assembly line and crushed his leg. He got, from the state of Michigan, \$21 a week in workmen's compensation. That was all. If it hadn't been for the comradely generosity of his brothers in the UAW-CIO, who took up collections for him periodically, well—it would have been just too bad.

That incident—or near disaster—set Zander to thinking about all the hazards facing him and his family. What if he had been killed? What if he had been seriously ill? What if he got laid off or fired? What if members of his family met with misfortune requiring medical or surgical care? What if any of a whole multitude of things happened to him which would be completely beyond his power to control?

ON THE SCRAPHEAP

Zander is still a young man. But having a big family set him to thinking about the time when he would be "too old to work, but too young to die." Maybe his children would get jobs and support him and Mrs. Zander when the time inevitably came when the corporation would toss him on the "industrial scrapheap." But the hell with that! His children would want families and lives of their own; and, like most American workers, he liked the word "independence" with all the meaning given it by American history and traditions.

SAVE FOR SECURITY?

Don't ask Brother Zander why he doesn't save his money. If he didn't decide to give you a punch in the nose, he'd tell you that his

kids don't get enough of the right kinds of food as it is; that he buys six quarts of milk a day, but only the two youngest get all they want; that he needs more than four rooms for a family of seven; that he can't even buy one of the cars he makes (K-F gives a discount to employes, too) and shares another worker's car to the plant. Mrs. Zander says, with prices as they are now, she needs \$35 a week for food alone—"but that's out of the question."

Late last year, some of this load was taken off Earl Zander's mind when Local 142, UAW-CIO, signed an agreement with the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation. Not all of the load, but a good bit of it.

Through collective bargaining, his union negotiated a social security plan entirely (and properly) financed by the company. Zander's interests are protected by his own union, which shares on an equal basis in the administration of the fund with the company.

ALL THIS HELPS

Now, if Zander or any member of his family is sick, they get 120 days' hospital care—surgery, too, if it's needed—all paid for out of the Social Security Fund. There's also that \$30 a week for 26 weeks for Brother Zander if he is sick and unable to work.

Mrs. Zander and the children get \$2,000 if they were to lose their husband and father.

The shock of a layoff is cushioned by continuation of Fund benefits.

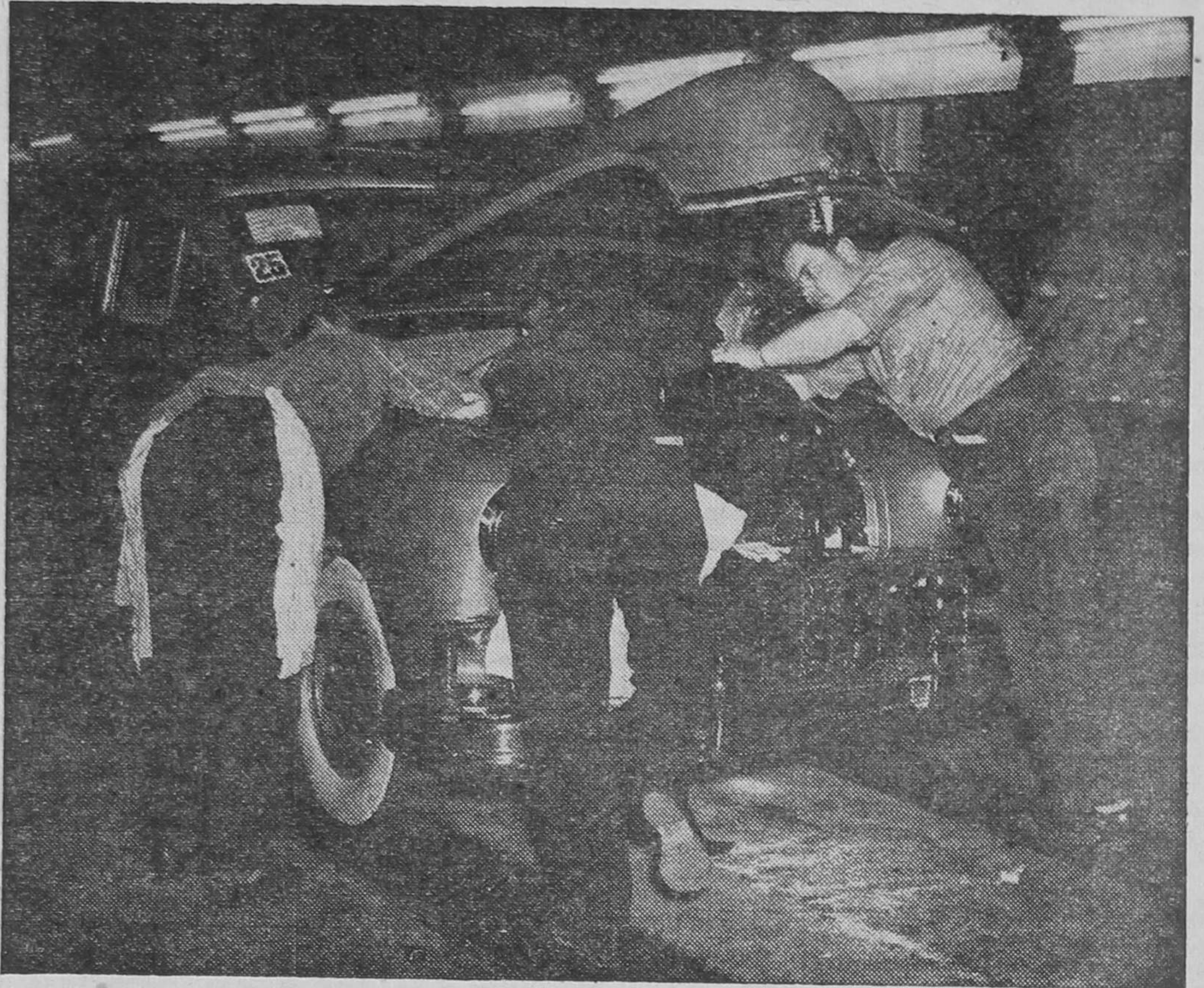
Says the UAW-CIO Social Security Department:

"One out of every 10 workers will have a major illness within the next 12 months. One out of every four families will face payment for a hospital bill. And, in major illness, doctor bills can amount to more than hospital bills."

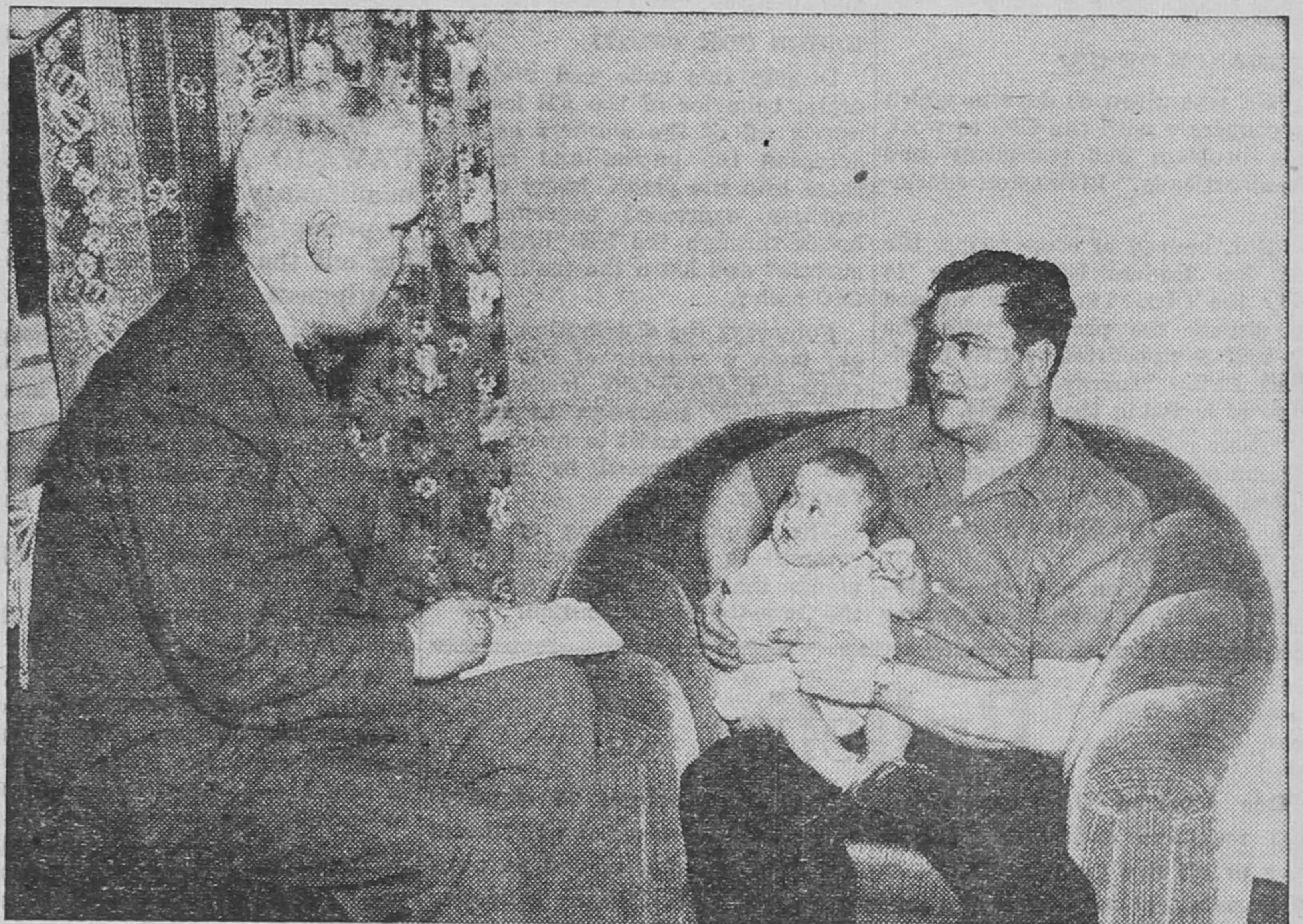
The UAW experts continue:

"Workers cannot finance adequate social security programs from their current earnings (they're telling Zander!). Unions' long experience with benefit plans paid for by individual workers through payroll check-offs or dues clearly demonstrates that such plans are incapable of meeting workers' social security needs. Employer payments obtained through collective bargaining can be used to protect all workers.

"Payroll checkoff plans, on the other hand, are generally offered on a take it or leave it basis. And the very workers most in need of protection are the ones who, because of other demands for money, are most likely to take a chance and go without even the meager protection offered."



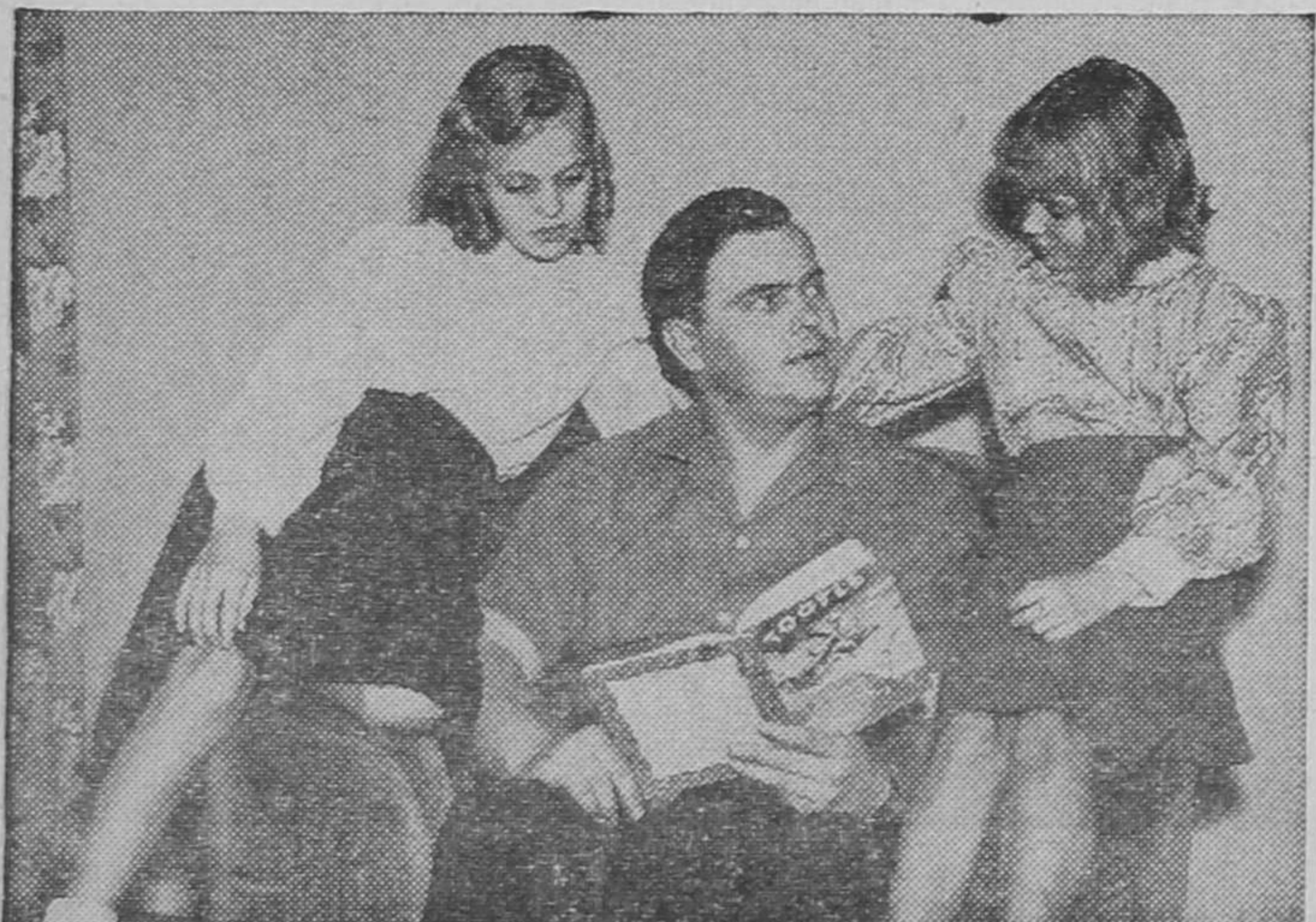
Earl Zander, UAW Shop Steward, at his job on final assembly at Kaiser-Frazer.



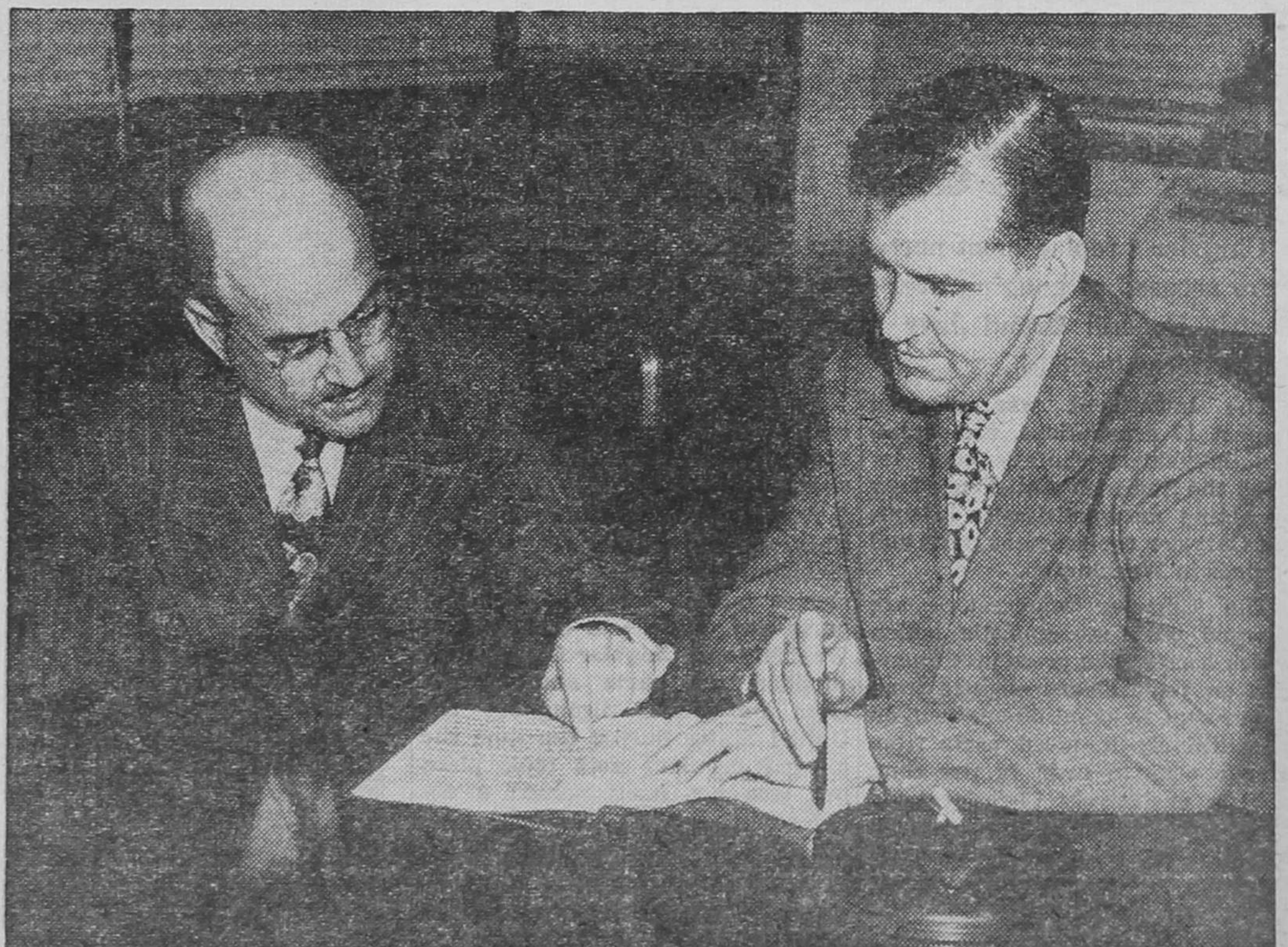
Arthur Riordan, Assistant Editor of the National CIO News, interviews Zander at home. Baby Irene, nine months, seems smitten with the newsmen. The CIO News also used the Zander family to illustrate its story on Social Security.



Zander gets home from work ...



And is promptly surrounded by daughters Janet, 10, and Barbara, 9.



At right, is UAW Local 142 President Frank Cotter, who is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the UAW-K-F Social Security Fund. Joaquin F. Reis, representing the corporation, is Secretary-Treasurer.

Stone-Age Stuff

AMA's Big Medicine Men Still Fight for High-Priced Health

"Forward to Yesterday!" was about the only intelligible battle-cry which could be deciphered this month from the mock-anguish trumpeting of the American Medical Association as its corps of lobbyists opened a frenzied campaign to deprive the American people of the benefits of the National Health Bill.

Bidding high for the services of a firm of efficient hatchet-men, the AMA has bought the dubious skills of Clem Whitaker and Leon Baxter, the team which cut the throat of the California health insurance program proposed by Governor Warren.

It is hoped, apparently, that if Morris Fishbein, medieval-minded editor of the AMA Journal, cannot assassinate the Health Bill by sheer volume, the new hirelings can do so by finesse.

SOME DOCTORS DISAGREE

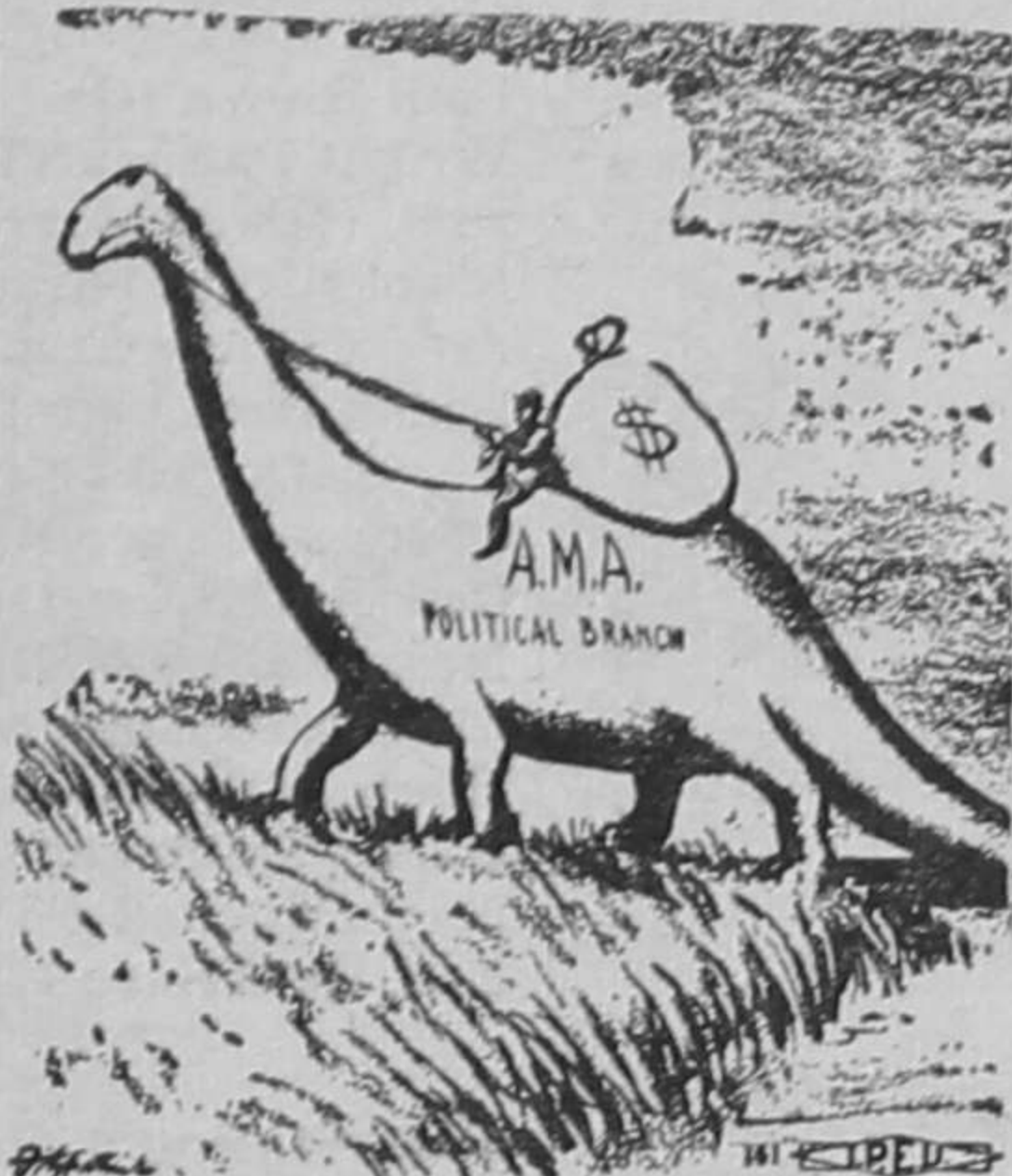
Meanwhile, however, the pretense of the AMA's governing organ, the House of Delegates, to represent solid medical opinion in opposition to the bill was being punctured right and left. Having railroaded through a levy of \$25 on every doctor member of the AMA to build a \$3,500,000 slush fund, this arbitrary body finds itself up against a swelling wave of opposition from outraged physicians. The opposition does not come alone from the substantial percentage of doctors who favor the bill outright. Protests have been made as well by medical men opposed to the bill, but equally opposed to AMA's high-handed taxation without representation.

FLANK ATTACK

While fighting a rear-guard action against proposed legislation to improve the national health and health services, the AMA is now exposed to a flanking attack, mounted in large part by doctors, against its exclusive claims to speak for the medical profession. The liberal Committee for the Nation's Health has recently established that the voice behind the AMA loudspeaker is by no means the voice of the entire medical fraternity.

Of AMA's paunchy House of Delegates, it is revealed, only 15 per cent are general practitioners, while 50 per cent of the nation's doctors are in general practice. Only 8 per cent of the delegates are from small towns, while 30 per cent of the country's physicians are from communities with less than 5,000 population.

Questionnaires have recently proved that in New England and in the Middle Atlantic States, nearly half the M.D.'s have had enough and have bolted the AMA line. Similar questionnaires, answered before the National Health Bill was drafted, showed that for the country at large only 61 per cent of the doctors were then of the same view as the AMA. With the bill an actuality and awaiting Congressional consideration, it is estimated that the number of doctors favoring participation in the national health plan has sharply increased. In Britain, frequently cit-

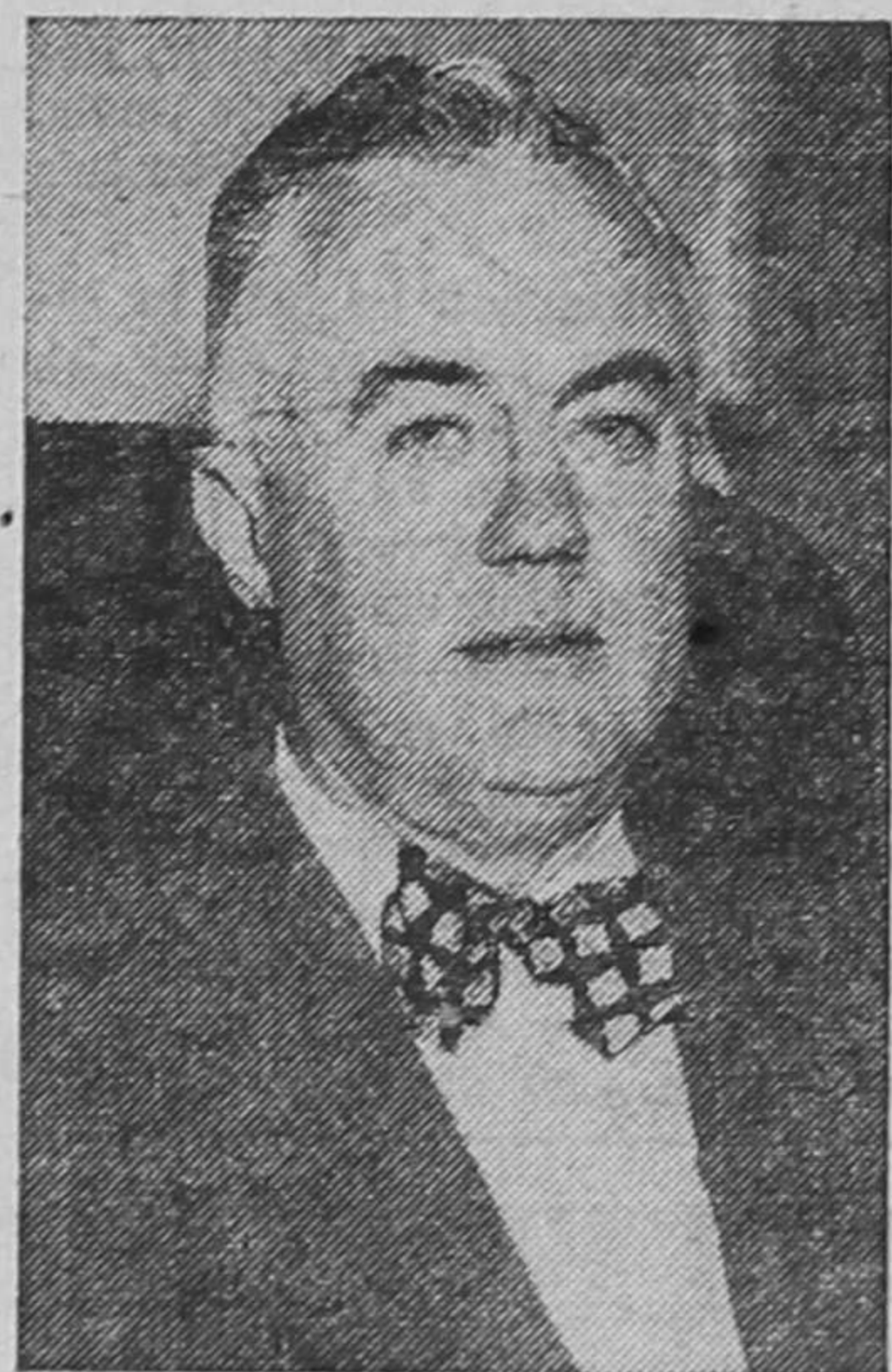


ON TO WASHINGTON

ed in comparison, overwhelming medical opposition preceding passage of that nation's national health plan has now been converted to overwhelming support. Editor Fishbein has recently visited Britain in search of ammunition to fire at the American plan and has returned empty-handed, mouthing his worn dogmas.

FISHBEIN'S "SOCIALISM"

In a January debate with Oscar Ewing, Federal Security Administrator and strong protagonist of the Health Bill, Fishbein was reduced to hollow echoes of the AMA charge that the bill is "socialistic"



OSCAR EWING

and finally obliged to give support, as an alternative to an effective plan, to the same voluntary health insurance programs which his organization has so heatedly fought for the past decade.

At the same time, citing figures drawn directly from the AMA's Bureau of Medical Economics, Senator James Murray of Montana concluded that at least 97 million people in the United States cannot afford adequate medical care under present circumstances.

"More than 325,000 Americans will die this year," the Senator declared, "because they can't afford to live. Their deaths can be prevented—but they won't be—because these 325,000 men, women and children cannot afford to buy urgently-needed health and medical services in time.

"Physicians should be disturbed," Murray warned, "because the activities of the existing medical lobby (already spending more than any other single registered group) are marked for sharp public scrutiny."

But while pressure mounts for federal investigation of how AMA spends its "educational" funds, that body's 155 delegates hold 325,000 lives in their hands. Dr. Fishbein looks on a coordinated national effort to do something about it as treasonable to American institutions.

Mazey Reports on Europe

World's Free Unions Quit WFTU; CIO to Help Form New Organization

Returning from attendance at late January Paris sessions of the World Federation of Trade Unions, UAW-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey revealed to a large press conference in Detroit early this month that the CIO delegation to the WFTU on which he served will unanimously recommend to the CIO national executive board on March 2 that CIO withdrawal from the WFTU be confirmed. The committee, made up of Mazey, CIO Secretary-Treasurer James Carey, Rubber Worker President L. S. Buckmaster and Steelworker Secretary-Treasurer David McDonald, will at the same time recommend, Mazey declared, that the CIO undertake, jointly with the AFL, formation of a new international labor organization composed only of free and democratic trade unions.

SOVIET PUPPET

Reviewing the circumstances prompting CIO withdrawal from the WFTU, Mazey stated that opposition by Communist-controlled member unions to the European Reconstruction Program was in complete opposition to the very purposes of the international organization. He anticipated that additional withdrawals of non-Communist delegations would shortly reduce WFTU to an ineffectual Soviet puppet with no claims to international representation. Joining in the CIO walkout in Paris were the British, Dutch and Swiss delegations. Early withdrawal of Danish, Swedish and Norwegian participation is expected.

NEW ORGANIZATION

Mazey was hopeful that cooperative CIO-AFL action would make possible creation of a new and democratically-controlled international organization of free unions, giving fresh encouragement and impetus to non-Communist unions in what he termed the three "crucial" countries—Germany, France and Italy.

The UAW Secretary-Treasurer admitted that he had gone to Eu-

rope somewhat skeptical as to the actual application of Marshall Plan funds, but that careful checking on the spot had convinced him that the impact of American aid was beneficial throughout and revealed no instances in which it had served purely private or corporation interests. Democratic labor, he found, is solidly in support of the program.

EXCHANGE VISITS

It is his intention, Mazey stated further, to urge that the national CIO expand its European staff for the purpose of maintaining more effective contact with free European unions, and that a comprehensive program of material and financial aid to democratic unions be developed. As a step toward a closer working relationship with British unions, he revealed, UAW-CIO will shortly sponsor a month-long visit to American industrial centers of a nine-man delegation from the British Amalgamated Engineering Union. Later, in turn, a UAW-CIO group will visit British plants and trade union centers.

FAVOR LABOR PARTY

Many interviews and a number of inspection trips in England had



EMIL MAZEY

persuaded him, Mazey asserted, that key measures in the Labor Party's reconstruction program are successful and accepted by a heavy majority of the people. The national health plan, covering nearly 97 per cent of the population, he cited as particularly popular.

Questioned concerning the status of trade unions in Germany, Mazey reported that opposition to vigorous expansion of democratic trade union activity on the part of the American Military Governor, General Lucius Clay, furnished propaganda weapons to Communist and Nazi sympathizers alike and threatened to produce widespread ill-feeling toward American occupation government by the Western German working population.

Norwegian Unionists Praise American Labor Support of ERP

Concluding a month-long inspection of American industrial facilities, a seven-man delegation of Norwegian labor leaders returned home early this month after expressing confidence that American labor's support of the Marshall Plan would assure democratic survival in western Europe. Headed by Haakon Lie, Secretary of the Norwegian Labor Party, the group was here under ECA auspices to gather information on mass-production techniques and apprentice training applicable to Norwegian conditions.

Members of the same delegation had previously made a carefully-conducted tour of Soviet production centers. Their report to the Norwegian nation on their findings emphasized that Soviet unions operate in a straitjacket of government control and that Russia's working classes live in material poverty far more severe than that of the most war-ravaged of the Western European nations.

VISIT DETROIT

Secretary Lie, no stranger to the United States, declared on the Detroit leg of the group's visit that Marshall Plan aid had averted an almost certain economic crisis in Norway and forestalled an equally certain increase in Communist influence among workers. That influence, he stated, is now at a minimum, and the success of the Labor Party's internal economic policies has been such as repeatedly to force the small Communist Party to vote along with the Socialist majority.

PRODUCTION PROBLEM

Norway's major current problem, the visiting group agreed, is increased production in manufacturing industries. This problem will be solved, they hoped, through application of advanced mass-production techniques and through improved industrial labor training programs. The American tour, they asserted, had given them valuable information applicable to both production and training.

Among cities visited during the trip were Pittsburgh, Cincinnati,



HAAKON LIE

New York, Washington and Detroit, where they were guests of the Wayne County CIO Council and of International officers of the UAW. Several of their hosts expressed themselves as amazed at Norway's advances, under Labor Party leadership, in such fields as national health legislation, social security, guaranteed minimum and annual wages, labor participation in industrial planning, and public education, despite limited natural resources and the havoc wrought by the Nazi occupation on the nation's manpower and industrial equipment.

The visit by Norwegian workers is the first in a planned series which will eventually find ECA bringing labor leaders as "production teams" to the United States from all countries participating in the ERP.

CIO Endorses Candidates for School Board

Three CIO-endorsed candidates have filed for the February 21st primary for the Detroit Board of Education. Mrs. Jane Lovejoy, James Lincoln and Pat McNamara are backed by the Wayne County CIO Council, the UAW-CIO, the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), and the Better Schools Association.

At the heart of the CIO platform on education is the goal of no more than 30 pupils to a class. To do this CIO emphasizes the need for increased buildings, more trained teachers and efficient use of school money. This necessitates an increased budget from local, state and federal funds. With smaller classes it will be possible not only to do an excellent job of teaching the three R's but many additional subjects as well, including good citizenship and community responsibility.

The three CIO-endorsed candidates, Mrs. Lovejoy, Jim Lincoln and Pat McNamara, also emphasize the need for community participation in the schools. They pledge to secure increased use of school facilities for community activities, full explanations to the public of the Board of Education's program and action, and a full hearing for every citizen delegation. In addition they promise a full accounting to taxpayers of where the money comes from and exactly where it is spent, with well announced public hearings before the budget is approved.

Additional points of the CIO platform include a school program that will meet the needs of the 42 per cent who leave school before graduation, adequate counseling of high school students and more classroom space per building dollar.



DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

CIO ASKS CONGRESS FOR \$1 MINIMUM WAGE

WASHINGTON—Stating the CIO demand for a \$1 minimum wage, three witnesses last week also presented to the House Labor and Education Committee the CIO case for extending the minimum wage and overtime pay benefits of the Wage Hour Act to at least 5,000,000 more persons, including 1,000,000 workers on industrialized farms and many others in retailing and food processing industries not now covered.

CIO endorsement was given the Lesinski Bill (H. R. 2033), providing an immediate increase of the minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour, further increases up to \$1 an hour by industry committee action and extended coverage. Amendments to tighten certain provisions of the Lesinski bill and to extend coverage were urged upon the committee.

AFL HELPS

A. F. of L. witnesses likewise generally endorsed the Lesinski Bill, which was a revision of a "committee print" that would have opened loopholes for evasion of the overtime provisions of the Act and would not have covered any hired farm workers.

The Lesinski Bill gives minimum wage protection to employees of farm enterprises employing workers for 300 or more man-days during each of the preceding four calendar quarters. This would affect only two per cent of the nation's farms and only four per cent those employing hired labor, but would protect half of the 2,000,000 hired farm workers and would catch substantially all the factories in the fields that now employ sweated migrant labor and furnish unfair competition to the operators of family-type farms who try to keep their families fed, clothed and housed.

LEVY TESTIFIES FOR UAW

Presenting the legal phase of the CIO case for bringing the

Wage-Hour Act up to date and extending its benefits to all employees engaged in commerce or in activities affecting commerce, as in the Wagner Act, UAW-CIO General Counsel Irving J. Levy warned the committee against loose language in the committee print that would open the door to widespread evasion of the Act's hours provision by making it possible to avoid payment of the 50 per cent premium wage for overtime above 40 hours a week.

He endorsed the language of the Lesinski Bill which, while permitting organized longshoremen to make a contract with employers that would not require so-called "overtime on overtime" payments for night, holiday or Saturday work below 40 hours, would protect other workers against being short-changed by using premium pay to pay for genuine overtime. Arrangements such as the longshore contract would have to conform to regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The economic phase of the CIO case was presented by Solomon Barkin, research director of the Textile Workers' Union-CIO and labor experience under the outdated Act was offered by Dr. Helen Miller, of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union-CIO.

EARLY ACTION EXPECTED

The House Labor Committee is expected to report the Lesinski

Members of Crucial House Committees

Here is the roster of important House committees whose functions are of special importance to labor.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR

(Handles Taft-Hartley, minimum wage, aid to education, etc.)

DEMOCRATS

John Lesinski (Mich.), Chairman
Graham Barden, (N. C.)
Augustine Kelly (Pa.)
Adam C. Powell (N. Y.)
John S. Wood (Ga.)
John F. Kennedy (Mass.)
Wingate Lucas (Tex.)
Cleveland Bailey (W. Va.)
Leonard Irving (Mo.)
Carl Perkins (Ky.)
Charles Howell (N. J.)
Hugo Sims (S. C.)
Andrew Jacobs (Ind.)
Thomas Burke (Ohio)
Tom Steed (Okla.)
Roy W. Weir (Minn.)

REPUBLICANS

Samuel K. McConnell (Pa.)
Ralph Gwinn (N. Y.)
Walter Brehm (Ohio)
Wint Smith (Kans.)
Carroll Kearns (Pa.)
Richard Nixon (Calif.)
Thurston Morton (Ky.)
Thomas Werdel (Calif.)
Harold Velde (Ill.)

COMMITTEE ON RULES

(Sets schedule for consideration of bills)

DEMOCRATS

Adolph Sabath (Ill.), Chairman
Eugene Cox (Ga.)
Howard Smith (Va.)
William Colmer (Miss.)
Ray Madden (Ind.)

James J. Delaney (N. Y.)
John Lyle (Tex.)
John McSweeney (Ohio)

REPUBLICANS

Leo Allen (Ill.)
Clarence Brown (Ohio)
James W. Wadsworth (N. Y.)
Christian Herter (Mass.)

COMMITTEE ON BANKING & CURRENCY

(Handles economic matters, housing, rent control, anti-inflation, etc.)

DEMOCRATS

Brent Spence (Ky.), Chairman
Paul Brown (Ga.)
Wright Patman (Tex.)
A. S. (Mike) Monroney (Okla.)
Brooks Hays (Ark.)
Albert Rains (Ala.)
Frank Buchanan (Pa.)
Abraham Multer (N. Y.)
Charles Deane (N. C.)
George O'Brien (Mich.)
Mrs. Chase Woodhouse (Conn.)
Clinton McKinnon (Calif.)
Hugh Addonizio (N. J.)
Isidore Dollinger (N. Y.)
Hugh Mitchell (Wash.)
Barratt O'Hara (Ill.)

REPUBLICANS

Jesse Wolcott (Mich.)
Ralph Gamble (N. Y.)
Frederick Smith (Ohio)
John Kunkel (Pa.)
Henry Talle (Iowa)
Rolla C. McMillen (Ill.)
Clarence Kilburn (N. Y.)
Albert M. Cole (Kans.)
Merlin Hull (Wis.)
Hardie Scott (Pa.)
Donald Nicholson (Mass.)

Bill favorably, with some amendments, at an early date. Early Senate action is expected. It faces two principal dangers:

1. A short bill to legalize the longshoremen's agreement, which expires March 1, may be pushed through first. This would ease the pressure for action on the thorough bill.

2. The Senate may adopt, with short debate, a bill simply raising the minimum wage to 75 cents, postponing extension of coverage to an unspecified later date.

CIO is for thorough modernization now; A. F. of L. is going along but, if the Lesinski Bill is delayed in either House, may try to get the longshore bill through first.

Members of the House and Senate should be urged NOW to press for final passage of the Lesinski Bill, with minor amendments offered by the CIO, well before February 28.

Indianapolis Gets First Of Conference Series on Women Workers' Problems

Announcement of a conference to deal primarily with the problems of women workers has been made by Raymond H. Berndt, Region 3 director, and Caroline Davis, director of the UAW-CIO Women's Bureau.

The meeting will be held in Indianapolis on Sunday, April 24, starting at 9 a. m.

Communications and credentials will be sent to all local unions in Region 3 in the near future by Regional Director Berndt's office.

However, both Brother Berndt and Sister Davis strongly emphasize the point that the conference is not to be limited to women delegates alone. They are making the request that each local union in the region also send members of

the local Bargaining Committee. In this way it is hoped that real progress can be made toward resolving the various differences and issues concerning women in our industry.

According to Sister Davis, the Indianapolis meeting marks the beginning of a series of region-wide conferences which are being planned by the Women's Bureau for the various other areas of the International Union. Such meetings, for the purpose of attempting to work out those problems which arise from time to time in plants employing women, will be sponsored cooperatively by the UAW-CIO Women's Bureau and the Regional Offices.



Region 3 Director Ray Berndt is shown with Fair Practices Department Co-Director William H. Oliver just before opening the January Fair Practices Conference in Louisville, Ky., at the UAW Ford Local there.



TO HONOR HARRY—More than a million people saw this float, designed by the CIO for Harry S. Truman's inaugural parade. Seen along with floats provided by the states, plus impressive contingents of West Point and Annapolis men, and national dignitaries, were floats from the AFL, Machinists, Musicians, Communications Workers, and coal miners' and hat workers' bands. Finishing touches were given to the float at the National Airport before it made the long swing through the streets from the Capitol to the White House. (LPA)

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