The United Automobile Worker

UAW-CIO

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

VOL. 18—No. 1 | Printed in U.S.A. | JANUARY, 1955 | 72 | Send copies returned under labels No. 3579 to 2457 East Washington Street, Indianapolis 7, Indiana

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10,000th Ford Retiree Looks To The Future

What does one retired UAW member think about current Union matters? What does a man with 31½-years invested at Ford's think of the Guaranteed Wage? What does a UAW member of 14-years think about building the Union Strike Fund?

For the answers, see Pages 6 and 7

THE 10,000th WORKER TO RETIRE under the UAW-CIO-Ford pension, Godfrey "Jim" Wolfe, plans to enjoy some well-earned relaxation after 31½ years at the Highland Park and River Rouge Ford plants.

AFTER THE ELECTION at the recent CIO Convention in Los Angeles, which resulted in reelection of the incumbent officers, the top three had big victory smiles. Reading from left are Vice-President Emil Rieve presiding (also head of the Textile Workers Union), Executive Vice-President John Riffe, UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther and Secretary-Treasurer James Carey (also president of the IUE-CIO.)

CIO Calls for Labor Unity

LOS ANGELES—Delegates to the National CIO Convention here last month hailed the progress made toward labor unity during the last year and directed CIO members of the Unity Committee to continue negotiations "in the constructive spirit that has already been displayed."

The resolution was unanimously adopted and was supported in speeches by David J. McDonald, President of the United Steel Workers; James B. Carey, CIO Secretary-Treasurer; CIO President Walter P. Reuther (all three of whom are members of the CIO subcommittee on unity); Joseph Curran, President, National Maritime Union, and others.

PROUD OF PROGRESS

The resolution states:

"We hail the progress that has been made during the last year toward the goal of seeking organic unity.

"We voice our approval of the successful operation of the No-Raiding Agreement which we have always regarded to be a touchstone of our larger goal of seeking organic unity.

"We commend the constructive progress that has been made by the members of the Joint AFL-CIO Unity Committee and endorse their decision to 'create a single trade union center in America through the process of merger which will preserve the integrity of each affiliated national and international union.'"

Excerpts from some of the speeches follow:

REUTHER: "The reasons, all of them good and sound reasons for labor unity are legion. There are many problems. They are real, they are difficult, they are complex, and they have human elements involved in them.

"But I believe, and I believe this most sincerely, that none of these problems are beyond solution; that while there are obstacles in the way to the achievement of a sound, honorable, and principled basis for organic unity, none of the obstacles are insurmountable, providing the people who sit down and who jointly carry the responsibility for solving the problems and for surmounting the obstacles approach that task in a spirit of good faith and good will and act in the knowledge that the labor movement is not a loose federation of private empires; that the labor movement is a great responsibility, a great opportunity for those in positions of leadership, and that if we measure the things we have in common, they will give us the vision to overcome the small areas that we have in conflict.

McDONALD: "Organic unity is necesary in order to do some of the things that have just been talked about in the last half hour from this convention floor. Organic Unity is necessary if we are to win these fights for improved legislation on the state level, and organic unity is necessary if we are to win some fights for improved social and labor legislation on the federal level.

"And I pledge this: Insofar as the United Steel Workers of America are concerned in a new unified labor movement, we will do more than our share in providing manpower and money for the conduct of great organizing campaigns."

CAREY: "With the no-raiding agreement expanded and with a merged labor movement in which all of the organizations that are part of that merged labor movement will respect the integrity of every other organization we will have.

"And then we can move forward, complete the work of organization, we will complete the work in the field of political action while we energetically carry on a campaign against corruption of all types inside and outside the ranks of labor."

CURRAN: "We came out of the AFL in 1936 and trod many rough roads. We expect to go back into a unified labor movement which will have double the strength of the labor movements divided as they are today, to go after better conditions on a double strength basis, to go after organizing the unorganized on the double, yes, and to clear out parasites in the form of racketeers, gangsters and Communists who may be clinging to the backs of any part of the labor movement."

Found Out on a Limb: One Labor Secretary

LOS ANGELES—In a statement which later failed to get the backing of President Eisenhower, U.S. Secretary of Labor James Mitchell told the National CIO Convention that he was "categorically" opposed to the so-called "right-to-work" laws now on the books in 17 states.

Denouncing such laws, which prohibit union security clauses in collective bargaining agreements, Mitchell said:

"I believe that when employers and unions representing a majority of their employes agree on a union shop, they should have the right to have one.

"They call these 'right-to-work' laws, but that is not what they really are," he continued.

"I hope that the states which have these laws will give them further consideration. If they do, I believe, they will find that they do more harm than good.

"In the first place, they do not create any jobs at all. In the second place, they result in undesirable and unnecessary limitations upon the freedom of working men and women and their employers to bargain collectively and agree upon conditions of work. Thirdly, they restrict union security and thereby undermine the basic strength of labor organizations," Mitchell declared.

TEST OF FAITH

Commenting on Mitchell's talk, UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther said the "test of the Administration's good faith" is the way in which it would seek to amend Taft-Hartley provisions which encourage such open shop laws.

The "test" was not long in coming. At a press conference, President Eisenhower not only failed to talk about such Taft-Hartley amendments, he even refused to back up the remarks made by his own secretary of labor—remarks which were actually nothing more than the expression of a pious hope that the states would rescind their "right-to-scab" laws.

The President told reporters that he did not agree with his secretary of labor that these laws were bad.

FOUNDRY MEETING

INDIANAPOLIS — Representatives of fourteen UAW-CIO Malleable Foundries held a two-day meeting here January 7-8. They made a comparative analysis of contracts and wage rates and laid plans for drafting a master contract for the industry.

CIO to Rescue Leather Workers

LOS ANGELES—Another blow at Communist-led unions was struck by CIO at its convention with the formation of the Leather & Tannery Workers Organizing Committee in response to requests from democratic elements in the Fur & Leather Workers Union.

Nucleus of the new LTWOC will be the 4,000 members presently in Local 21 of the Fur Workers in Peabody, Mass., a major tannery center. They are expected to reject their affiliation with the union which was expelled from the CIO in 1950.

Mrs. Roosevelt Asks For New Deal Attitude

LOS ANGELES—A dignified lady, whose vision never grows old, drew wild applause from delegates to the CIO Convention here with a straightforward appeal to courage and reason.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the first lady of the land during America's greatest era of social experimentation, asserted that one of the greatest needs of modern times is a revival of the "attitude" behind the New Deal and the Fair Deal.

NEED NEW ANSWERS

The answers we found to national problems then may not be the solution to problems now, she said. The important thing is that we were willing to try new approaches "when you were not sure any particular solution would be right."

Mrs. Roosevelt has taken more abuse from the press than perhaps any other woman in modern times. And she has also won more grudging admiration. Neither verbal sticks and stones nor lavish praise apparently have swayed her from her "attitude."

That's to take a good look at problems and try to figure out the best solutions without worrying about what less-courageous people are going to say about those solutions.

Mrs. Roosevelt radiated pride as she looked over the Convention. After all, the change in the national approach to labor during the New Deal had a lot to do with the rise of the CIO. She pointed out that labor is "growing stronger and stronger." She beamed with pride as she said that.

THAT BRIGHTER WORLD

There's no secret about Mrs. Roosevelt's goals. She wants people to eat better and live better throughout the world. And she wants peace. Achieving these things are the problems. Labor can play a key role in finding the solutions.

"As you (in labor) grow stronger, you have a greater responsibility for the policies of your nation, for what your nation does at home, and how it will develop in relation to its leadership in the world."

Mrs. Roosevelt spoke as though she knew she was among friends who shared her vision.

Sen. Morse Proposes

'Massive Retaliation' Against Unemployment

LOS ANGELES—A plea for continued labor support for a congressional program of "massive retaliation" against unemployment and recession was made by the very independent Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon in a speech before the National CIO Convention which received an enthusiastic response.

Morse, warning of another tide of unemployment in 1955, declared that government has a responsibility for doing something about it.

"During the past two years, the executive branch has closed its eyes to these problems," he said. "The Republican leadership in Congress saw no further than its closed lids.

"With a Democratic Congress, we no longer have a case of the blind leading the blind.

"Put another way, the federal government is no longer monopolized by those whose vision is so selective they cannot recognize unemployed human beings, but only see bird dogs and kennel dogs."

He said the economic philosophy and programs of President Eisenhower, Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks and Treasury Secretary George Humphrey "have been devoted to pulling plums out of the national pie for Big Business and the banking fraternity.

"Weeks and Humphrey had that job in private life," he added, "and just can't get out of the habit. The only solution is to get them out of office."

Morse recalled that in the 83rd Congress it was the Democrats, with whom he cooperated, who worked for tax relief for moderate and low income families.

"The fight will be waged again," he promised. "The CIO worked hard at the grassroots to put the program across. It was defeated by a handful of Republicans. We must win it in the 84th Congress."

Delegates to GM-Ford Conferences Unanimously Back Demands for '55

Local Union representatives, who will bear part of the burden and responsibility of the UAW-CIO's upcoming negotiations with General Motors and Ford, this month went over the collective bargaining demands adopted at the Union-wide Economic and Collective Bargaining Conference last November and gave them their enthusiastic support.

The 286 delegates to the UAW's General Motors National Conference and the 127 delegates to the Union's National Ford Conference spent three days preparing for negotiating at meetings held simultaneously in Detroit.

Every delegate voted in support of the 1955 demands.

Vice-President John W. Livingston, director of the UAW's GM Department, and Ken Bannon, director of the Union's National Ford Department, asserted that delegates to the twin conferences "showed the solidarity, the unity of purpose which just cannot be denied."

Naturally the Guaranteed Annual Wage, chief demand for '55, got the most attention. But the delegates, represening 365,000 General Motors workers and 150.000 Ford workers, went over the wage, pension and health insurance demands in great detail.

UNION TO BE READY

They also did a lot of work on other demands including changes in the language and provisions of their respective contracts with special emphasis on grievance machinery that is used in handling day-to-day problems.

The UAW-CIO-General Motors contract expires May 29 and the UAW-Ford contract ends three days later. When negotiations start, the Union will be prepared.

Livingston stressed the importance of '55 demands in his keynote speech.

"It is proper to say that the negotiations between our Union and these industrial giants—GM, Ford and Chrysler—are the most significant in the history of our Union, or any union for that matter," he said.

WORLD-WIDE ATTENTION

"Not only is the community at home watching. The community of the world is watching. Our success can mean much of the forces for freedom. Our failure would mean much to the cause of those aggressive forces of Communism which thrive most where workers have the least.

"There is much that we can do to help the future of our national economy while we are helping our own individual economy. Certainly there can be little brightness in a future where a gigantic corporation by hiring fewer people and selling fewer of its products can reap greater profits. And that is exactly what has happened to General Motors."

In his keynote talk, Bannon termed the Ford council meeting "the most important ever held." Bannon asserted that "the trend of the times," makes the Guaranteed Annual Wage a necessity.

"We are not asking for an extended vacation plan with respect to this program," Bannon said.

WANT STEADY WORK

"We are asking for steady work. And at the point that the companies fail to provide this steady work, they must bear the burden of unemployment. Workers have a right to live. In order to live, they must have a job. This job should be performed under decent conditions and provide a monetary return that will enable the worker to raise and support his family as God meant him to do.

"The companies must have the responsibility of assuming the burden of unemployment for they, more than any other group, are the cause of it. Once we force them to assume the responsibility, just as in any other contractual matter, many of the problems of unemployment will no longer be with us. Further, the companies and corporations are in much better position financially to bear this burden of unemployment than the worker."

Reuther Tells of Huge Profits; Says Business Can Afford GAW

Industry can well afford to meet the costs of the UAW-CIO'S 1955 demands, UAW President Walter P. Reuther asserted in talks at both the General Motors and Ford pre-negotiations conferences.

Reuther pointed out, "They are going to say to us this time, as they always have, 'We can't afford these things.' They said that about every other demand we ever raised. They said that about pensions plans. It would just bankrupt them.

"Well, we have pension plans, and they go on making more money than they ever made.

"Corporation dividends went up more than a billion dollars last year," he said. "Yet wages came down around $6 billion for the 12 months from June, 1953, to June, 1954. The General Motors Corporation alone (for which profit figures are available) made $7 million in profit for every working day in the first six months of 1954."

Reuther observed that surgeons usually try to have patients diet away excess fat before they operate. "Our kind of operation is most successful when the layers of fat are the thickest," he said. "Never in history have we had patients so ideally situated.

"People are naturally healthier when the excess fat is gone," he said. "And that can apply to some corporations, too."

GM CAN'T PLEAD POVERTY, Vice President John W. Livingston, director of the UAW's General Motors Department, points out as he reads some interesting statistics at the Union's General Motors Workers' Conference.

Trillion $ GM Baby

The danger of taking literally all the propaganda you read in the newspapers has just been accidentally exposed by a reference to a General Motors stockholder.

You are familiar with the propaganda. Nobody "owns" General Motors at all. It's actually owned by 459,099 individual stockholders (and that's why what's good for General Motors is good for the country).

You follow out THAT line of reasoning, by a little multiplication, and you get the rather surprising discovery that the current value of General Motors stock is $918,198,000,000,000, in the high trillions.

That's a lot of money . . . or a lot of hogwash.

We got this tasty figure by supposing that each of the individual widows and orphans who "own" General Motors owns as much as the duPont people do. They actually have GM holdings worth $2 billion.

If every one of those 459,099 stockholders had $2 billion worth of GM common stock, it would be worth $918,19 — oh, the heck with it.

POSSIBLE STRIKE STRATEGY? Ken Bannon, left director of the UAW's National Ford Department, and UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther were deep in discussion when this picture was snapped at the UAW-Ford Workers' Conference.

Teamsters Sign a No-Raid Pact

CHICAGO (PAI)—The first no-raiding and mutual cooperation agreement between the AFL Teamsters and a CIO union has been worked out between the IBT's Central States Conference of Teamsters and the CIO Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. The pact covers members of both organizations in 12 Midwestern states and two Canadian provinces.

Eye Bargaining Burden

MEMBERS OF THE TOP GM bargaining committee include(standing, left to right) Roy Turner, president of Local 522; International Representative Irving Bluestone; Howard Smith of Local 653; E. J. "Pat" Patterson, assistant director GM dept.; Robert Hinders, Local 696 president; John Fairbairn, Local 157 financial secretary and Robert Great head of Local 1031. Also (seated, left to right) George Bannister of Local 663, committee chairman; UAW Vice-President John W. Livingston, director of the National GM dept; Harold L. Smith of Local, committee vice-chairman; E. W. Barrett of Local 422, committee secretary; and Same Seirmarco of Local 98.

MEMBERS OF THE TOP bargaining committee for Ford workers include (standing, left to right) Horace Sheffield of Local 600; Frank Kelly of Local 551; Ralph Burgess of Local 870; Art Valenti, Local 900 president; Owen Hammons, Local 862 president; George Nixon, Local 980 president; John Orr, Local 600, vice president; and Ray Busch, Local 879 president and secretary of the committee. Also (seated, left to right) Al Musilli, Local 400 president; Vincent McKenna, Local 560 president; Carl Stellato, Local 600 president; James Burwell of Local 849; Art Speed of Local 600; Ken Bannon, director of the National Ford Department; and Gene Prato, committee chairman.

As It Is Now

IN THE SHADOW of downtown Detroit lies this desolate area, known as the Gratiot-Orleans district. Its slum dwellings, razed some time ago, have been replaced by piles of trash and refuse.

As It Can Be

THIS IS WHAT the Gratiot-Orleans district of Detroit is going to look like in the future. Explaining the architect's model to members of Detroit's Common Council is UAW President Walter P. Reuther, chairman of the Committee on Planning and Design of the Citizens Redevelopment Committee.

A Housing Plan for the Nation:

From Wasteland To Garden Spot

A $50 million housing development to displace a razed downtown Detroit slum area, is being planned by a "citizens' committee" with the active support of the UAW-CIO and its president, Walter P. Reuther.

The housing plan would serve as a pilot project, pointing the way for other cities to follow. Its backers envision a project which would combine the best features of both public and private housing.

UNION GETS ACTION

The redevelopment of Detroit's Gratiot-Orleans area had been a topic of discussion for years. Talk was not translated into action until last summer when President Reuther, in a telegram to Detroit's Mayor Albert E. Cobo, urged the creation of a broad, representative "community housing and redevelopment committee" to be made up of top level leaders from industry, business, church, civic groups.

The committee's task, as President Reuther saw it, was to be the planning of a modern housing development for the blighted Gratiot-Orleans area, and later for other Detroit slum areas.

At the same time, UAW-CIO offered an initial contribution of $10,000 to help finance the work of such a committee.

The Union, President Reuther pointed out at the time, was "vitally concerned with the elimination of Detroit's slums" and was "prepared to cooperate" with other local groups in the development of a "comprehensive slum clearance and redevelopment program."

He suggested that the "citizens' committee" create a non-profit housing corporation to facilitate the redevelopment program. This corporation would have the task of raising the funds and securing the loans for the construction of residential buildings, in a neighborhood of schools, stores and churches.

PLANS GET OK

The suggestion was heeded, and, with the blessings of the city's government, prominent persons from all walks of life formed what is now known as the "Citizens Redevelopment Committee." President Reuther was named chairman of the group's Committee on Planning and Design.

The committee retained a team of nationally known architects to draw up plans for the development of the Gratiot-Orleans area. These plans call for an "integrated neighborhood" of apartment houses, duplexes, and single residences, to be built by both private and public builders.

Last month, the architects' master plan won the approval of Detroit's Common Council and the City Plan Commission. Earlier, Mayor Cobo had also okayed the master plan, which calls for construction of 4422 dwelling units in a 225-acre plot.

The Council and the mayor are also expected to give final approval of the Citizens' Redevelopment Committee's plans to establish a Michigan-chartered non-profit urban redevelopment corporation, which will purchase the land and supervise the development of a model community.

PLAN QUICK START

Several private developers have indicated their interest in the program. Construction of some of the units may start in a few months, the Committee has announced. The entire development may be completed in three to five years. The financing of the project is no longer a serious problem, according to the Committee.

However, the group must still surmount one important obstacle: the approval of federal housing officials, which so far has been withheld because of legal technicalities. These difficulties will soon be ironed out, however, federal Housing and Home Finance Agency officials have said.

The importance of the committee's work was stressed by President Reuther in a statement to the press last year. American cities, he pointed out, have been "slowly decaying at the core, creating serious economic and social problems."

"The great and desired mobility which the genius of the automobile industry has brought about has accelerated this serious process of decay," he declared.

Loyal Workers Get Yule 'Gift', 48-Hours Notice

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan—The Chamber of Commerce boys here aren't trying to tell workers that managements put people ahead of profits.

Nearly 250 members of UAW-CIO Amalgamated Local 19 were fired by the Grand Rapids Hardware Company just before Christmas. Their holiday present from the company was 48-hours notice that management was "clearing the decks," for the new owner, labor-hating Denham Manufacturing of nearby Big Rapids.

Denham is operating the company under the name of Durable Products. It is telling workers whose seniority should have endured that it may not operate at all; might just liquidate the assets.

So far, of the 30 workers hired, only about a dozen are from the old work force. And the company's placed an ad in the paper for "women under 35." (Wage rates already have been reduced 35 cents).

The old owner and the Union got along fine. But when the old concern had a chance for a quick profit—on condition that the old management throw a lot of loyal workers to the wolves—management forgot all about the people involved.

If the guaranteed wage plan had been in effect, the workers would have had a year's income to tide them over; management likely would have found it more profitable to arrange that their jobs didn't go to new hires.

Credit to Union

Members of the Local 157, UAW-CIO, Credit Union, Detroit, think their new organization is a real credit to their Union. In just eight months of operation, it has attracted 1,400 members, $140,000 in assets, paid a 1½ per cent dividend.

Feather Beds?

BREMERTON, Washington—Local CIO and AFL lumber workers came up with a cutie for making extra Christmas dough. Practically no work involved, either. Fact is they sat back and let the squirrels work. Squirrels collect cones from pine, fir, hemlock and cedar trees during fall and early winter. In turn, union men collected cones from the squirrels, and sold 'em to seed companies for a nice price.

Wonder if some management guy would call it featherbedding?

Girl Scouts Get 'Hart's Disease'; Their Troubles are Legion (Illinois)

To the defense of the Girls Scouts of America, who need no justification for their fine work with 2,000,000 American girls, came spokesmen this week of both the CIO and the AFL.

The Girls Scouts had been under attack by what J. A. Bierne, president of the Communications Workers of America (CIO) called "ultra-nationalists, the true 'know-nothings' of American life," and what Matthew Woll, his AFL opposite number in the field of Community Relations called "bigoted, narrow-minded people".

UNHAPPY HANDBOOK

This flattery was lavished on the National Economic Council headed by Merwyn K. Hart. (The Council is sometimes referred to as 'Hart's Disease'); and on the Illinois American Legion, who had blasted the Girl Scouts for admitting, in their handbook that a United Nations organization exists, and that there are other countries in the world, some of whom actually contain some fairly decent people.

These isolated references and phrases in a 511-word handbook devoted to the activities of the Girl Scouts were, after the super - patriots protested, removed from the text . . . not out of fear, but, as Mrs. Gordon C. Hunger, chairman of the GSA national executive committee put it, "to make those changes to which any segment of our adult population might object . . ."

She wanted, she explained, to avoid having the "fun and friendship" of two mililon little girls "put in jeopardy by a controversy that is basically a conflict of grown-up ideas."

Well-meaning as she was, Mrs. Hunger was overly complimentary in calling the ideas of the National Economic Council and the Illinois American Legion "grown-up," as both Woll of the AFL and Bierne of the CIO hastened to point out.

SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM

Bierne said:

"Recently the Girl Scouts acknowledged they had made some changes in their handbook. These changes followed well-publicized, political attacks on the organization by people to whom children's projects in support of the United Nations and international friendship are suspect or worse.

"There is no reason for the half-million Girl Scouts volunteer workers and leaders to be coerced by this latest version of 'small-time McCarthyism'. They enjoy the support of the great majority of Americans who approve the Girl Scouts' useful, diversified services which are provided regardless of race, creed, economic status or political beliefs of the childrens' parents.

"Attempts to make political capital out of attacks on this enlightened, patriotic, social program should be ignored or opposed. We pledge our support in this direction."

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKER

Publication Office: 8000 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit 14, Mich.
Send copies returned under labels No. 3579 to 2457 East Washington Street, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.
Circulation Office: 2457 E. Washington St., Indianapolis 7, Indiana

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION, International Union, United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, affiliated with the CIO. Published monthly. Yearly subscription to members, 60 cents; to non-members, $1.00. Entered at Detroit, Mich., as second-class matter under the Act of August 24, 1912, as a monthly.

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NAA Workers Get Pioneer Pension Plan; First One in West Coast Aircraft Industry

LOS ANGELES — The first pension plan to be negotiated in the West Coast aircraft industry highlights the provisions of the new 15-month contract between UAW-CIO Locals 887, 1151, and 927, and North American Aviation.

The history-making contract, which also calls for wage increases and other gains, covers 32,500 workers in the Company's Los Angeles, Fresno, and Columbus, Ohio plants.

The company-paid retirement plan will cover hourly paid employees who retire at age 65 after a minimum of 10 years' service. Maximum benefits, including federal social security payments, will come to $161 a month for single workers, $215.30 for married employees, and $252.50 for married workers with one or more dependent children under 18.

FULL PACKAGE

Under this plan, the retirement age is from 65 to 68, but adjusted benefits for early retirement may be made available at age 60 after 15 years of service.

The plan gives an employee the choice of having his retirement benefits paid at an adjusted rate as long as he or his spouse lives. It also includes a death benefit of $1000 and a monthly disability benefit of $70.

Benefits will be computed at the rate of $1.75 for each year of credited service up to 30 years. Thus, a single worker who retires at age 65 after 30 years' service will get $52.50 from the company, plus social security, for a possible total of $161.00.

COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

The new UAW-NAA agreement also incorporates the present three-cent cost-of-living allowance into base rates, and calls for a two-and-a-half per cent hourly wage increase based on the new base rate.

Combined, these two items constitute an average wage boost of eight cents per hour.

The contract also provides for individual job adjustments, improvements in the automatic wage progression clause, and other gains.

Union and company negotiators hailed the "new spirit of cooperation" and the friendly atmosphere which prevailed at the bargaining table. The North American plants were the scene of a three-month strike in 1953.

One Down, 16 to Go

The Commercial Travelers Insurance Company of Salt Lake City has agreed to refrain from false and misleading advertising of its health and accident benefits.

The firm is one of 17 insurance concerns against which the Federal Trade Commission had issued complaints last October. Details of the FTC's charges were carried in full in the November issue of The United Automobile Worker.

The consent order prevents the Utah insurance company from representing that its policies remain in effect indefinitely or for any period of time when in fact the firm can cancel the policies during that time; or that its policies cover a wider range of illness or accidents than are actually covered; or that its protection includes more of the actual expenses than the company would pay.

"It Breaks My Heart to See Those Sad Little Tykes"

Michigan Towns Pass FEPC Laws

Ecorse and Hamtramck, Michigan, last month became the thirty-third and thirty-fourth cities in the nation to adopt fair employment practices commission (FEPC) ordinances.

The new laws, adopted by unanimous votes of both city councils, bar discrimination in hiring based on race, color, religion or national origin. Both laws provide that, where persuasion and conciliation fail, the five-man FEP commissions prosecute offenders. Fines for noncompliance range from $100 to $500 and the maximum penalties include 90 days imprisonment.

Council Endorses Economic Demands

CLEVELAND, Ohio — At the last meeting of the National Gear, Axle, Transmission Wage-Hour Council, the delegates unanimously endorsed the economic demands formulated and approved by the recent Economic Conference held in Detroit. The Council is under the direction of Vice-President Richard Gosser.

The council also voted to amend its by-laws, and hold all future meetings semi-annually. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Lansing, Michigan, on April 30.

"That's the trouble with non-union jobs—You not only work for peanuts, but are always getting a roasting besides!"

A LETTER FROM a well-wisher is read by the family of Mrs. Etta Mae Stricker of Windsor, Ontario, one of three heirs to a $2 million fortune. Her husband Douglas is a Ford of Canada striker.

Ford Picket, Local 7 Worker Really Had That Rich Relative

How would you react if you were told one day that you had just inherited more than half a million dollars?

An idle question? Not at all, because that's what happened last month to the families of two UAW members.

A week before Christmas, William R. Scott of Highland Park, Michigan, a member of UAW-CIO Local 7, Detroit, and his sister, Mrs. Etta Mae Stricker of Sandwich East Township, Ontario, were notified by newspaper reporters that they were heirs to a $2 million fortune left by an uncle in Florida.

ON PICKET LINE

Mrs. Stricker's husband, Douglas, a member of UAW Local 200, Windsor, Ontario, is one of the Ford of Canada strikers and has been on the picket lines since early October.

Scott, Mrs. Stricker, and another brother in New Mexico are each slated to get one-third of the estate.

Both said they did not get excited when they got the news. They had known for some time that they would inherit "a nice sum of money," but they had no idea their uncle, a retired businessman, was a millionaire.

Scott, who is 49, works at the Chrysler Corporation's Jefferson Avenue plant in Detroit and lives with his wife and daughter in a Detroit suburb. A conservative man by nature, he is displeased with all the publicity he has been getting since his windfall.

PLENTY OF CHANCES

Since the story first broke, Scott says he has been bothered by people who have written and phoned him from all parts of the country, asking for handouts.

"They don't seem to realize that it may take from a few months to a couple of years before I see any part of the inheritance," he said with a laugh. "And I'm making no definite plans for the future. We are going to go along living just as we have been, and we're not going to let this thing give us swelled heads."

Mrs. Stricker also complained about the hundreds of phone calls she has been getting daily since the news came out. Callers include salesmen, business people offering credit, friends, relatives, well-wishers, and people asking for money.

"But we don't really mind it too much," she said. "We're so grateful. With my husband on strike, it would have been a tough Christmas otherwise."

Teamwork

Defense Secretary Wilson said the cutback in the manpower of the armed forces "arose from the Administration's belief that the threat of global war had decreased." (N. Y. Times story of December 20 on press conference statement by Wilson).

."The reductions (in manpower) are not due to the fact that we consider the danger has diminished, but merely due to the fact that we have other ways to cope with that danger." (Secretary of State Dulles at a press conference the following day).

Any questions?

Fifth Auto-Lite Plant Wins Learner Program

SARNIA, Ontario—UAW members of Local 456 who work in the Auto-Lite plant here are now covered by a Skilled Trades agreement which includes an apprenticeship training program, it was announced by Vice President Richard Gosser, director of the Union's Auto-Lite Department.

He pointed out that this is the fifth Auto-Lite plant to secure the learner program. Others are Local 396, Lacrosse, Wisconsin; Local 964, Syracuse, N.Y.; Local 526, Bay City, Michigan; and Local 571, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Absentee Record

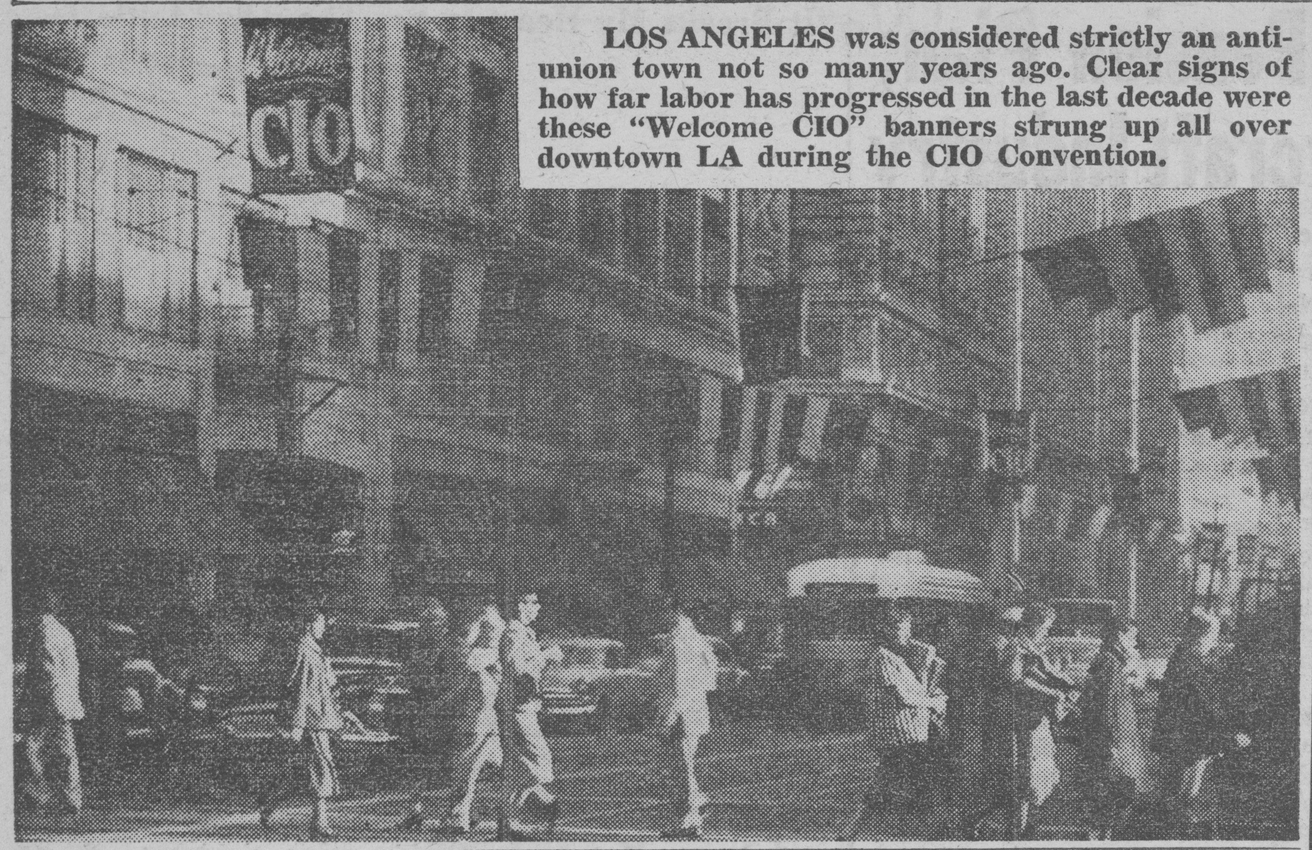
The Milwaukee Journal observes that "no modern president has such a record of absenteeism from his White House office as does Mr. Eisenhower" . . . During his first year in office, the paper noted, he was away almost one-third of the time: In Washington 251 days, away 114.

"I understand the chorus girls have a grievance against the theatre management!"

CIO's Help Secures Fluoridation in Pontiac

PONTIAC, Michigan — Cooperation between the Oakland County CIO Council and several civic and community groups has resulted in this city's adoption of a program to fluoridate its water supply in the interests of dental health.

Sparked by the CIO Council, the local Parent-Teachers Association and other civic organizations, the four-year drive was brought to a successful conclusion this month when the Pontiac City Commission voted unanimously to have fluorine added to the drinking water.



LOS ANGELES was considered strictly an anti-union town not so many years ago. Clear signs of how far labor has progressed in the last decade were these "Welcome CIO" banners strung up all over downtown LA during the CIO Convention.

Pension-Severance Plan Tops 22-cent Bell Package

Pension-Severance, the "one-two punch" in the UAW-CIO's collective bargaining battle to protect aircraft workers from the instability of aircraft employment as well as against the fears of old age, became a part of a labor contract in aircraft for the first time in history as UAW and Bell Aircraft negotiations were concluded recently in Buffalo, N. Y.

John W. Livingston, director of the Union's National Aircraft Department, announced that the new pension agreement will exceed in benefit levels any existing in the aircraft industry and that, along with the pension, Bell workers now will be entitled to as high as 120 hours pay at time of layoff through the severance pay plan.

22-CENT PACKAGE

The contract, which will run until March 1957 provides economic benefits totalling 22 cents an hour. It was ratified by members of Locals 501 and 516 in Buffalo and Locals 218 and 317 in Ft. Worth, Texas. All contract benefits apply equally to all hourly-rated Bell workers whether in Texas or New York.

A six-cent Improvement Factor will be paid in March 1956 and an escalator clause which operates on the UAW-approved structure will protect against living cost increases for the life of the agreement.

A general wage increase of five cents per hour was made effective January 15, 1955, which, along with the three-cent addition from the cost-of-living float hikes wages eight cents generally. The establishment of a new 1-A classification provides skilled workers with an additional 10-cents per hour increase.

Bell workers — and there are 11,000 covered by this agreement —now enjoy the highest guaranteed rates in the industry with a $2.60½ top rate and an average straight time rate of $2.22.

Vacation - sick leave improvements were made, the only full Union shop in aircraft was continued and many other benefits. But most attention focused upon the new Severance-Pension Plan.

PREVIOUS TIME COUNTS

Under the severance plan employes with 6 months of service receive 40 hours pay at the time of layoff with this amount being graduated to a maximum of 120 hours pay after 15 years service.

The pension plan is the GM type with $1.75 per month for each year of service, fully vested and with joint board of administration. Of added significance is the low 1700-hour annual service requirement plus the protection of back service credits as well as future service credits.

In aircraft plants, after World War II, there were mass layoffs. Many of these laid off people were recalled with the coming of the Korean War. The Bell Pension permits these workers to get credit for those World War II years. They are also protected in the future during periods of layoffs up to their total seniority.

In hailing the significant agreement, Livingston cited the hard work of the local union committees from Texas and New York and the fine job of coordinating that was done through the Regional offices of Director Martin Gerber of New York and Director Russell Letner of the Southwest Region which includes Texas, with National Aircraft Representatives Wise W. Stone and Regional Staff members William Hilger, Buffalo, and H. A. Moon, Ft. Worth.

Aid to Communists?

NEW YORK (PAI)—Striking out at the present trend in many states to enact so-called "right-to-work" laws, the Labor Leader, official publication of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, in a New Year's message to Catholic workers and employers, stated that these law's "by their elimination of the union shop open the way for a spirit of class warfare" in America.

Skilled Trades Confab Draws 800 Delegates

CLEVELAND — Approximately 800 delegates, representing a quarter of a million skilled workers in the United States and Canada, were assembling here for the annual UAW-CIO Skilled Trades Conference as *The Auto Worker* went to press.

The Conference, under the direction of UAW Vice President Richard T. Gosser, will devote much of its time to the basic 1955 demands adopted at the Union's Bargaining Conference last November. A major concern will be the special problems of skilled workers.

Representatives of the IAM-AFL have been invited to attend. Region 1A Co-Director Joseph McCusker represented the UAW-CIO at the IAM's recent National Tool and Die Conference.

A full report of the UAW Conference will be carried in the next issue of *The Auto Worker.*

Lansing Not Cold

LANSING, Michigan — Members of the Lansing CIO Council proved that despite the wintery season their hearts are certainly not cold. They played hosts to some 250 retired local residents at a Christmas party held in the hall of UAW Amalgamated Local 652. It was open to all Lansing retirees whether union members or not.

Entertainment provided for the old timers, ranging in age from 50 to 86, included travelog films, a vocal trio, community carol singing, and a Christmas story. After the buffet luncheon a grand march was held. Gifts of corsages and earrings were given the women, while the men received cigars and ball-point pens.

16th Century Mind at Work

We reprint herewith, without comment or elaboration, a paragraph from the *Wall Street Journal* of January 6, 1955:

"Employers say last winter's spell of unemployment acted as a goad to efficiency."

"It's a novelty New Year card from the shop steward you tried to fire last year."

10,000th Retired Fo Likes Guaranteed W

Godfrey J. Wolfe, 65, a slender, quiet, bespectacled man kept his date with destiny this month.

For 31½ years he was a clock number in the Ford Motor Company files, and, since the UAW-CIO came in, "a good union man" to the rest of the men on his line in the massive Rouge plant.

He's seen a lot of improvements in working conditions and a host of new machinery as time moved him toward retirement age. This month he decided the security he'd always worked for was in his grasp.

On a Monday morning, "Jim" Wolfe and his wife, Annie, put on their Sunday best. They took a bus downtown to the UAW-CIO-Ford Pension headquarters in the Guardian Building.

A bevy of reporters met them there. Flashbulbs popped. Somebody thrust a cigar into his hand. Then, in a simple ceremony, he became the 10,000th worker to retire under the pension plan negotiated by the UAW-CIO and Ford.

'OUR FUTURE'S SECURED'

With his pension and Social Security, he'll have $151 coming in every month. "That's our 'Guaranteed Wage'," he said. In six years, when his wife becomes eligible for Social Security, the total will be $215.

"We own our own little house," he explained with obvious pride. "It's going to be a tight squeeze getting along on the pension, but our future's secured."

It wasn't always. When he came to Canada from London, England, in 1910, he was looking for a better opportunity. The same thing was true 13 years later when he came to Detroit. He started in at the Highland Park Plant for the famous Ford $5 day. When he left the Rouge Engine Plant for the last time this month, he was making $2 an hour. In between those times, he's had his share of layoffs and uncertainties. "With a wife and four children to support and house payments which had to be made, you just had to keep plugging," he explains. He's known gnawing worries and restless nights like almost everyone. "It's really wonderful knowing those checks are coming in now."

"What about the Guaranteed Annual Wage?" a reporter from a Union paper asked him when he called at the Wolfe home.

"For the younger man it's better than pensions," Wolfe said. "You get security when it does you and your family the most good."

NEVER OWNED A CAR

It would have taken a lot of worry out of his life. He, for example, never had a car. The house was more important. He doesn't envy people with cars even after building them most of his life. But if more people could be sure of their future, more people would buy cars. That would help workers and companies.

"The more a man earns, the more he spends you know," Wolfe said. "It goes right back to the man who gave higher rates in the first place. I think more employers realize that, now."

Does this mean he thinks workers won't have to strike for the Guaranteed Wage?

"I don't know," he said frankly. "Somebody's had to strike for most of what we've gained. And I think the Union has to be prepared. I think a big strike fund reduces the chance of a strike, and I'm glad to see we're planning to raise one.

"After all, the things we gain change the whole outlook on a man's life. Look at me. I'm just one of 10,000 in one company who already are getting the benefits of pensions.

"Raising a big strike fund takes a pretty small investment from all the members when you think of how much everybody has to gain. Besides, benefits cover a lot more people than just those on strike. We didn't lose a day at Ford over pensions. It's only right that everyone should help the ones making the fight."

FOLKS CAN PULL TOGETHER

He pointed out, "We've had our ups and down with the Company," but his pension is good evidence that "labor and management can pull together the way they should."

He's catching up on those long delayed house repairs first off. And he's going to do some relaxing.

Almost any evening you're likely to find Wolfe and his wife and his daughter, Mary, 28, and their son, John, 33, at their home, 4922 Curtis, Dearborn. Any union man or woman in the area is welcome to drop in.

There's even time now for a friendly cup of tea.

THERE'S TIME NOW to ge with an important young man in life. Wolfe talks things over with who will be bringing those pensi Security checks every month.

l Ford Worker Eyes Future; d Wage Idea, Big Strike Fund

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FITTING SEND OFF—Everyone smiles broadly as UAW and Ford representatives fight over the privilege of lighting the cigar for "Jim" Wolfe, of Local 600, 10,000th UAW retiree at Ford. Left to right: Robert T. Ross, manager of Ford Employee Services; Wolfe, Mrs. Annie Wolfe, and Ken Bannon, director of the UAW's National Ford Department.

Pension Payments Up

Thirty years ago the Ford Motor Company had a lot bigger worker turnover than it does now, but figures released by the joint UAW-CIO-Ford Pension Fund Board reveal that nearly 4,000 of the 10,000 retiring under the plan are getting full pensions.

Godfrey Wolfe and the others with 30 years service receive $52.50 or more a month from the fund plus Social Security.

Since the pension went into effect five years ago, the UAW has negotiated more liberal benefits three times

Half of the workers who have retired under the plan have 28 or more years of service credits while three-fourths of them have more than 20 years service.

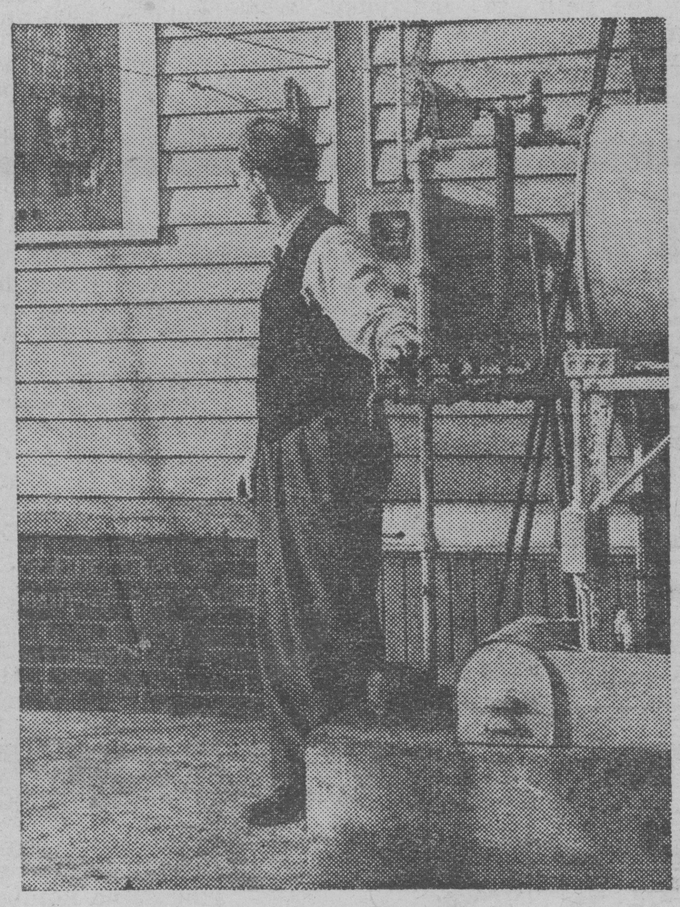
More than half of the 10,000 retired because of age. The average pension check is $45 a month Another 8½ per cent retired under total and permanent disability provisions. Their average monthly benefit is $79.

In slightly less than five years, the pension plan has paid out more than $13 million to retired workers. Payments have gone steadily upward until now more than $400,000 is sent to pensioners each month.

Wolfe and other pensioners also have life insurance protection and the chance to continue group hospital and surgical insurance.

The average age of retired UAW Ford workers is 70 years. The oldest retired is 91. Wolfe joins the 80 per cent of retired Ford workers living in Michigan.

Only 4 per cent live in Florida or California Another 15 per cent live in other states, most of them in their home towns. One per cent maintain homes outside of the U.S.A.



FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS upon retirement was adjusting that tricky valve on the fuel oil system he constructed a while back. It's all automatic, holds almost enough oil for the whole winter. His wife is suggesting he could "rest one day first."

E NOW to get acquainted
young man in "Jim" Wolfe's
hings over with the postman
ing those pension and Social
ery month.

END OF A PERFECT DAY for Senior Citizen Wolfe and his pal, Bambi, finds both of them sound asleep after an afternoon of working outside for a change. The paper has just dropped to the floor.

Nosey Surveyors Asking Housewives about GAW

FLINT, Michigan — What looks suspiciously like a new guided missile in management's union-busting arsenal got a workout recently in the Flint-Lansing area, heart of the General Motors industrial empire.

Union leaders sent out an alert to the membership when interviewers began calling on Auto Workers in their homes guiding them through a string of mighty peculiar questions. The interviewers were for the most part housewives. They called only on UAW members who work in GM plants. And the prepared list of questions they carried sounded like it came out of the nearest labor relations office.

LOADED WITH ANGLES

Region 1C representatives planted a Union man in the kitchen while an interviewer questioned another Auto Worker in his parlor. With a list of the questions black-on-white, there was only one conclusion to reach —this worker-opinion survey was loaded. No matter how a person replied to some of those questions, the answers could be used to produce preconceived results.

A check with the interviewers revealed that they were working for an outfit called National Quality Interviewers of 17 E. 48th St., New York city. This firm maintains contacts all over the nation, and by placing a few phone calls it can put interviewers in the field almost anywhere.

The questions were furnished by another firm called Princeton Opinion Research of Princeton, New Jersey. Don't let the name fool you. This is strictly a profit-making organization and has no connection with Princeton University.

Queries to both these firms brought information that similar surveys were being conducted in other cities.

But identity of the client who wanted these questions asked was kept strictly confidential. So far as Flint or Lansing are concerned, it couldn't have been Ford or Chrysler. They don't have any plants in either city.

CAN TWIST ANSWERS

Here are some samples of the questions that UAW leaders considered loaded. Do you think the corporations are trying to provide their workers with full employment? What is the UAW-CIO doing to provide an annual wage? Do you think the annual wage is good for the corporation? Do you think the annual wage is good for the auto supplier? Do you think corporations favor the long-term contract? Do you think union leaders favor the long-term contract? Do the workers favor the long term contract? How do workers make out on long-term contracts in regard to wages?

It doesn't take much imagination to visualize the headlines that will break out along about the time negotiations open, like—AUTO EMPLOYES HAPPY WITH PRESENT WAGE CONTRACT EVEN IF UNION BOSSES AREN'T.

Whoever ordered the survey knew what he was doing. He's going to twist replies into anti-busting ammunition, no matter how the answers add up.

(ED. NOTE — If any Local hears of this survey being conducted in its community, the regional director should be informed. The Auto Worker also would like to know about it.)

Loaded

The feeling of UAW members in Flint and Lansing that there was something phony about the "opinion poll" taken in their cities was borne out this month when a copy of the questionnaire used by the Opinion Research Corporation was submitted to the scrutiny of an impartial expert.

Calling the survey "unscientific," this expert pointed to a number of questions "loaded" to evoke a negative response. Other questions depend for their answer on technical knowledge not available to the average person.

While the survey purported to measure workers' opinions of the guaranteed annual wage proposal and related issues, no questions were asked as to whether those queried favored the GAW plan, or whether they thought the plan fair and just.

"I suggest your husband join the Union, Madam, as the quickest way of getting him back on his feet!"

CIO Takes Firm Stand On Nation's Major Issues

LOS ANGELES—Nobody has to wonder where the Congress of Industrial Organizations stands on vital issues facing America and the Free World. Delegates to the CIO Convention here adopted some 60 resolutions spelling out the CIO's position in detail. A few of the highlights:

ATOMIC ENERGY—CIO calls upon Congress to repeal atomic energy giveaways, block the "dubious" Dixon-Yates Contract, end "isolationist restrictions on developing international cooperation in atomic energy."

GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGE—Enthusiastically supported as "an important lever for raising the sights of business leadership so that their planning takes into account the needs of workers . . . and the community."

FULL EMPLOYMENT—We must live up to the spirit of the Full Employment Act of 1946 . . . avoid a stagnant economy and "second best" years.

TAXES—The present $600 personal income tax exemption must be raised to $800 and eventually to $1,000. Excise taxes and others which reduce mass purchasing power must be curtailed.

CIVIL RIGHTS—"We urge the incoming 84th Congress to enact an effective and enforceable Fair Employment Practices Act. We urge the passage of similar legislation in the States."

TAFT-HARTLEY—Repeal T-H. Pass fair national labor relations act which embodies principles of the Wagner Act.

FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION—"Immediate federal aid for a comprehensive, nationwide school construction program." Federal funds to boost level of teachers' salaries. Continued support for Oil for Education and not for a few states. Adequate school lunch program.

MINIMUM WAGES—At least $1.25 an hour. Cover all workers in industries engaged in interstate commerce.

WOMEN WORKERS—"Intensify . . . efforts to overcome discrimination against women on the job or in the community."

Ike Proposes Set of Half-Way Measures To Meet Big Problems; Liberals Ask More

'THE FIRST LADY OF THE WORLD,' so titled by CIO President Walter P. Reuther in his introduction, clearly was deeply moved by the standing ovation she received from delegates to the CIO Convention. This picture was snapped when the applause was three minutes old. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt waves to her union friends while President Reuther continues to clap.

WASHINGTON — "Slack-filled" is the word for the 1955 Eisenhower legislative program. Item by item, it is short weight, short of the needs of the American people, their economy and security.

It is up to the Democratic majority in Congress to fill up the program. To the extent the Democrats beef it up with real liberal full production, consumption and employment measures, it will be possible for voters to tell them and their presidential candidate from the Republican candidates in 1956.

Here are samples of the contents of President's legislative program:

1—IMPROVE TAFT-HARTLEY—Only two amendments recommended:

(A) Let economic strikers vote in NLRB elections;

(B) Make employers sign non-communist affidavits. The first is good; the second is for the birds; Together they duck the real job of taking the fangs and poison out of the T-H law. Meantime, danger is that Eisenhower may try to appoint more pro-business members to the NLRB.

2—PROVIDE FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT—Here the brightest hope lies in Senator Paul Douglas (D., Ill.), the new chairman of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, created by the Employment Act of 1946. If, as expected, Douglas calls early hearings to carry out that law's purpose of promoting "maximum employment," those who believe we cannot afford continued large scale unemployment can get the story before the entire Congress, the Eisenhower Administration and the American people.

With that start, liberals in and out of Congress will have a better chance of developing enough demand to get some of the essentials enacted into law.

MEASURES TO WATCH IN '55

Working with and through the Joint Committee, liberals may be able to boost the "second best year" Eisenhower program from measures that are "too little and too late" to "enough and in time."

There is at least a chance for: tax relief for low and middle income people, higher minimum wages and farm family income supports, adequate unemployment compensation payments, more schools, housing and slum clearance, hospitals, highways, airports, and resumption of genuine public power development.

The members of this key Committee are listed elsewhere on this page.

UAW-CIO members and local unions may want to start letting them know now about unemployment and other economic conditions in their home districts and state.

3—TAXES—Eisenhower says leave them alone this year, then maybe they can be cut next year (just before 1956 elections). He'd like to cut more for corporations. Most Democrats would like to carry out campaign pledge to increase income tax exemption to $700 or $800 and close the dividend hole opened last year. Some Democrats, too, are reported toying with the idea that voters will remember them better if they delay this relief until next year.

What all members of both parties need to be told now—and constantly until they act—is that such delay is an insult to the intelligence of the taxpayers (and voters); that such a delay would cost the average Auto Worker 9½ cents an hour (if denied a $200 boost in exemption) and 4½ cents an hour (if denied a $100 boost in exemption).

4—INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE—After hiding out on this since 1953, the financial double-domes in the Eisenhower high command now have sold him on proposing an inadequate increase from 75 to 90 cents an hour. This is 10 cents below what Senator Ives says can pass the Senate if southerners don't filibuster.

CIO, AFL, northern Democrats and at least a few New England Republicans whose states have been losing payrolls to low-wage (and low-power rate) areas will fight for $1.25 minimum. Some southern Democrats favor a higher minimum wage.

5—IMPROVING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION — Eisenhower favors increasing coverage, but is silent about federal action to increase weekly payments and extend duration. On his behalf, Secretary of Labor Mitchell has again written governors. He asks them to urge state legislatures to boost state maximums so that the great majority of claimants receive at least 50 per cent of their weekly wages and the duration of benefits to at least 26 weeks for all eligible claimants.

CIO AND AFL are pushing in state capitals for better payments. By next spring, the deficit, the difference between the Eisenhower-Mitchell approach to the states and what the legislatures actually lay on the line, will be the amount that the Congress will be asked to make up by enacting federal standards for the system in all states—except that 39 weeks duration will be asked.

6—PROVIDING PUBLIC HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE—Slapped down last year by the GOP—83rd Congress on his request for 35,000 low-cost public housing units a year for four years, Eisenhower now urges the Democratic 84th Congress to provide the same number. This is less than one-fourth the 140,000 units a year authorized in the Wagner-Ellender Housing Act of 1949, finally supported by Senator Taft. In 1955 the bipartisan liberal housing slogan can be "Forward to the Wagner-Taft-Ellender Line of 1949" and on to 200,000 units in 1956.

In addition, provision should be made for aid to middle income groups by providing for lower down payments, lower interest rates, longer time to pay, etc., instead of the mortgage bankers-building industry gravy train.

7—HEALTH INSURANCE — Eisenhower and Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of Not-Too-Much-Health, No-Education and Less-Welfare, are still fighting the imaginary windmill of "socialized medicine." Last year they proposed a so-called "reinsurance" plan that would use a revolving fund of $25 million to insure, not persons, but insurance companies. The companies neither need nor want the protection.

This year Eisenhower is reported determined to boost the figure to $100 million. In 1954 even the Republican Congress gave the phony "reinsurance" plan a horse laugh, killing it in the house by a vote of 238 to 134 and leaving it to die on the calendar hook in the Senate.

Now that Senator Lister Hill is the new chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, chances are good for enactment of substantial make-ready parts of a health program. More education is needed before a system of national health insurance, to which Hill and too many others are still opposed, will get the votes needed for passage. Continued profiteering by organized medicine, insurance companies, hospital services, etc., can be counted on to speed the educational process.

8—FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION—Not now, say Eisenhower and Mrs Hobby, let's have another national conference next fall. That means throwing 9,000,000 overcrowded school children—and their voting parents—a few fish in the form of phony "school authorities" to provide funds for school construction, little or none to come from the federal government.

Senator Hill has already started a drive for quick enactment of a school construction bill, doubling the $250 million a year provided in the Republican bills that were put in the Eisenhower deep freeze at the end of the 83rd Congress. If this drive gets the grass roots support of teachers, parents, CIO, AFL, some farm groups, it will pass quickly.

'Frightened' Friends Duck Rule 22 Issue

WASHINGTON — Southern Democrats, who cling grimly to the filibuster, obtained a nearly silent surrender of the liberal Democrats as the price of party unity in the Senate of the Democratic 84th Congress.

Liberals were fearful that an attempt even to introduce a resolution to adopt new rules, (including a new Rule 22 which would make it possible by majority vote to limit debate to 96 hours thereafter) would provoke denial of committee appointments, hearings on vital bills and the votes needed to pass good bills and defeat bad ones in the next 2 years.

Democrats on record as favoring civil rights, persuaded senator Herbert H. Lehman (D.-Lib., N.Y.) to abandon his plan to reintroduce such a resolution.

UAW SOUGHT CHANGE

Instead of a debate and roll call vote on the changes in Rule 22 at the only time in this Congress when this road block to civil rights and other legislation could have been removed, the issue of majority rule in the United States Senate was buried on the afternoon of January 6th with short funeral services on the Senate floor. An uncompromising speech was made by Senator Lehman. Endorsements of the principle of majority rule were added by Senators Humphrey, (D., Minn.), Douglas, (D., Ill.) and Kuchel (R., Calif.)

During the hard but unsuccessful fight to get the issue of majority rule brought up for debate and roll call vote, William H. Oliver, co-director of UAW-CIO Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Department, and Roy Reuther, UAW-CIO Political Action Coordinator, worked actively with Roy Wilkins, NAACP administrator and others.

The statement made by Senator Lehman clearly kept alive the issue of majority rule in the Senate. His talk is being reprinted for wide distribution and an educational campaign in the next two years. Copies may be obtained from the UAW-CIO Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Department in Detroit or the UAW-CIO's Washington Office, 714 Walker Building, Washington, D.C.

'General Good' Generally OK A Generous Ex-General Guesses

WASHINGTON — "Welfare" still seems to stick in President Eisenhower's throat. In his January 6 State of the Union Message, instead of using the words "General Welfare" that are embedded in the United States Constitution, President Eisenhower referred to another general, general good, saying.

"Let the general good be our yardstick on every great issue of our time."

And, again, "we must subordinate to the general good our partisan, our personal pride and prejudice."

Two years ago, Eisenhower was talking about "promoting" the general welfare. His secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, explained the "welfare" title at her first press conference by referring to the preamble of the United States Constitution which says **"promote** the general welfare", not **"provide for** the general welfare."

When the UAW-CIO called her attention to the fact that the body of the Constitution directs the President and Congress **"to provide** for the general welfare", she and President Eisenhower left off talking about **"promote."**

But now, rather than accept the responsibility for "providing" for "the welfare state" so often damned by GOP mouthpieces as the path to individual weaknesses, Former General Eisenhower has put his old friend, general good, into the game as a substitute.

Key Committee

The Joint Committee on the Economic Report, under its new chairman, Senator Paul Douglas will have the following members: Rep. Patman (D., Tex.), vice chairman; Sen. Sparkman (D., Ala.); Sen. Fulbright (D., Ark.); Sen. Flanders (R., Vt.); Sen. Watkins (R., Utah.); Sen. Goldwater (R., Ariz.); Rep. Bolling (D., Mo.); Rep. Wolcott (R., Mich.); Rep. Simpson (R., Pa.); Rep. Talle (R., Iowa.)

At press time, there was still a Senate and two House vacancies to be filled by Democrats. It's a good committee to write to.

"Who's Your Friend?"

I-H Workers Say 'Phooie' to UE; 5th Quad-Cities Local Joins UAW

ROCK ISLAND, Illinois — The dead hand of the FE-UE was removed from the huge Farmall Works here this month, when nearly 3,000 International Harvester workers balloted in an NLRB election.

Pat Greathouse, Director of Region 4 UAW-CIO and the UAW-CIO Agricultural Implement Department, described the vote in Farmall as "the proof that Harvester workers want unity in UAW-CIO, and will not stop until they achieve it."

FIFTH IN A ROW

The official vote in Farmall Works was:

UAW-CIO—1,740
UE—760
No Union—81

The Farmall victory was the 5th NLRB election win for UAW-CIO in the Quad-Cities area since "Operation Big Switch" went into effect in Harvester.

The revolt of thousands of former FE members against the communist domination of UE was followed by elections in (1) East Moline International Harvester Cafeteria (now Local 1266); (2) John Deere Planter Works (now Local 434); (3) East Moline International Harvester Works Production and Maintenance (now Local 1304); (4) International Harvester Skilled Trades, East Moline Works (now Local 1306); (5) Farmall Works (now Local 1309).

The Farmall election was finally held after nearly 19 month's delay before the National Labor Relations Board.

FOR STRIKE FUND

The long-drawn-out election campaign at the Farmall Works was forced by shameless UE-ICH conspiracy. Under the company-dictated contract, International Harvester did everything possible to "make UE look good" in the attempt to influence votes.

UE itself, expelled from CIO in 1949 for Communist domination, "threw everything in the book" at the UAW-CIO in the NLRB election:

The proposed strike insurance fund to back up ecoonmic demands was made an issue by the FE-UE in the Farmall election. The UE literature, tabloids, shop pluggers, etc. pointed out that Farmall Workers would have to "pay $7.50 per month dues" if they voted for UAW-CIO. Farmall workers, convinced that strike benefits are a "must" in this modern day, voted down UE's anti-union appeal by a margin of 2½ to 1.

UE's election propaganda was the usual race-baiting and appeal to prejudice and hatred.

UE removed UAW-CIO supporters who had been elected stewards and officers from the super-seniority roll, and many were forced to take lay-offs during 1954. Many were never recalled, and so paid a supreme sacrifice for their support of UAW-CIO.

CHURCHMEN BACK UAW

The UE in the Quad-Cities was rocked to its foundations on Sunday, Jan. 2, when every Catholic mass in every city in the Rock Island area called on Catholic parishoners not to vote for FE-UE.

The daily newspapers purported to be shocked by this development, stating that "it is the first time in this area" that such a thing has happened. UE screamed that it "is a foul injection of religion" into the NLRB election and that "religion is not an issue" in the balloting.

Rev. William T. O'Connor, the well-loved "Father Bill of the Quad-Cities who is known as a "Labor Priest," stated: "If this were a political issue, it would be different. But this is a moral issue. We believe the FE-UE to be communist dominated. Catholics cannot, in good conscience, support anything that is communist dominated."

Both Reverend O'Connor and Reverend A. T. Mattson, Lutheran minister, had appeared before the UAW-CIO Farmall organizational meetings with high words of praise for Walter P. Reuther, UAW and CIO President, and the Guaranteed Annual Wage proposal.

Ain't Gonna Need That House

UE's Old House Toppling

RICHMOND, Indiana — The misguided few inside the International-Harvester plant here the day before the NLRB vote here this month as workers sang and whistled, "Ain't 'gonna need this house much longer." The "house," everybody knew, was communist-dominated UE.

Handbills passed out the day before the vote pointed out that no Union headquarters is more modern than the UAW-CIO's Solidarity House, and that the new regional office in Indianapolis is up-to-date. They added that the UAW-CIO has up-to-date servicing staffs to handle present-day problems.

Between talks, the sound trucks carried the tune, "Ain't gonna need this house." Everybody knew the words meant UE couldn't patch that leaky ceiling of poor contracts. Everybody figured UE couldn't patch its floors, sagging badly as more members switch to bona fide trade unions.

The vote was:

UAW—580 **UE—147**

In announcing the outcome, Region 3 Director Raymond Berndt pointed out. "UE failed to put its house in order when it had the chance long ago. Now that old UE house is just about gone."

Merry Wives in Windsor Just Can't Stand Scabs

WINDSOR, Ontario—The wife of a Ford striker here had an idea —or at least she claimed it was her idea.

She called a wives' meeting to get husbands to go back to work. The company will bargain just as well with our men back, she said. She got lots of publicity.

Approximately 250 women turned out, most of them members of UAW-CIO Auxiliary 264. The first order of business as far as Mrs. George Ursulak, president of the Auxiliary, was concerned was "Who gave permission to call this meeting?"

Then strikers' wives paraded to the microphone to point out, "Our men decide strike strategy," and "Ford workers bargained unsuccessfully for 10 months before they had to strike."

Since they were assembled and since the sponsor apparently wanted the vote, the Auxiliary members called for a vote on the key issue.

All but four of those present voted in favor of continuing the strike. Then everybody cheered, except, of course, the wife who called the meeting and discovered she couldn't even hang on to the microphone.

By their cheers it was plain that all the other wives were overjoyed by the outcome.

Ford of Canada's First Pact Offer Comes as Strike Passes 100th Day

TORONTO—UAW-CIO members at the struck plants of Ford Motor Company of Canada marked their 100th day (on January 17) of the Ontario-wide strike against the Company's refusal to negotiate an acceptable union agreement. Meanwhile the Company has made its first genuine offer in the 13-month long negotiations.

Although the Ford offer was far short of the Union demands, and far short of an acceptable contract, it did point up the possibility that the Ford Company might have had a change of heart in its consistent stubborness in negotiations.

NO '55 MODELS

In an exchange of letters between Union and Company, UAW Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey set up the resumption of negotiations in December. This occurred after the Company yielded to Union demands that it meet jointly with the striking Locals. During most of December, the Company had insisted on meeting Local 200 separately.

The Ford of Canada strike, which began at Windsor on October 10, at Oakville on October 15, and at Etobicoke on November 15, started just as the Company was ready to roll 1955 models off the line. Undoubtedly hurt by General Motors and Chrysler full production of 1955 models, Ford demonstrated head-in-the-sand ignorance and stubbornness.

Finally, Ford offered to negotiate a provincial agreement in good faith, provided that the Union first negotiate on seniority, job posting and hours of work. After 2½ weeks of sparring, during which the Company became convinced that the Union was not weakening, Ford came through with its first offer.

However, the Company proposition met neither the monetary nor the principal demands of the Union.

POINTS AT ISSUE

Among the Union demands at issue with Ford was a provincial agreement, transfer of operations, 4-cent hourly wage increase (plus 5 cent travel allowance at Oakville), company-paid complete hospital and medical coverage for workers and their families, a seventh paid statutory holiday, and $500 to $1000 life insurance for pensioners.

Other Union demands were the UAW Skilled Trades program, union shop, single umpire, three weeks vacation after 15 years (one of the few things offered by the Company prior to the strike), clarification of the "able and willing" clause in seniority provisions, and a number of lesser contract revisions.

"Our demands are very modest," declared Mazey to the Company, "and the Company's ability to pay is almost unlimited." Ford of Canada showed a profit over $20 million in 1953, led the Canadian auto industry until the strike, and made more in profits during the past seven years than in the entire first 43 years of its operation.

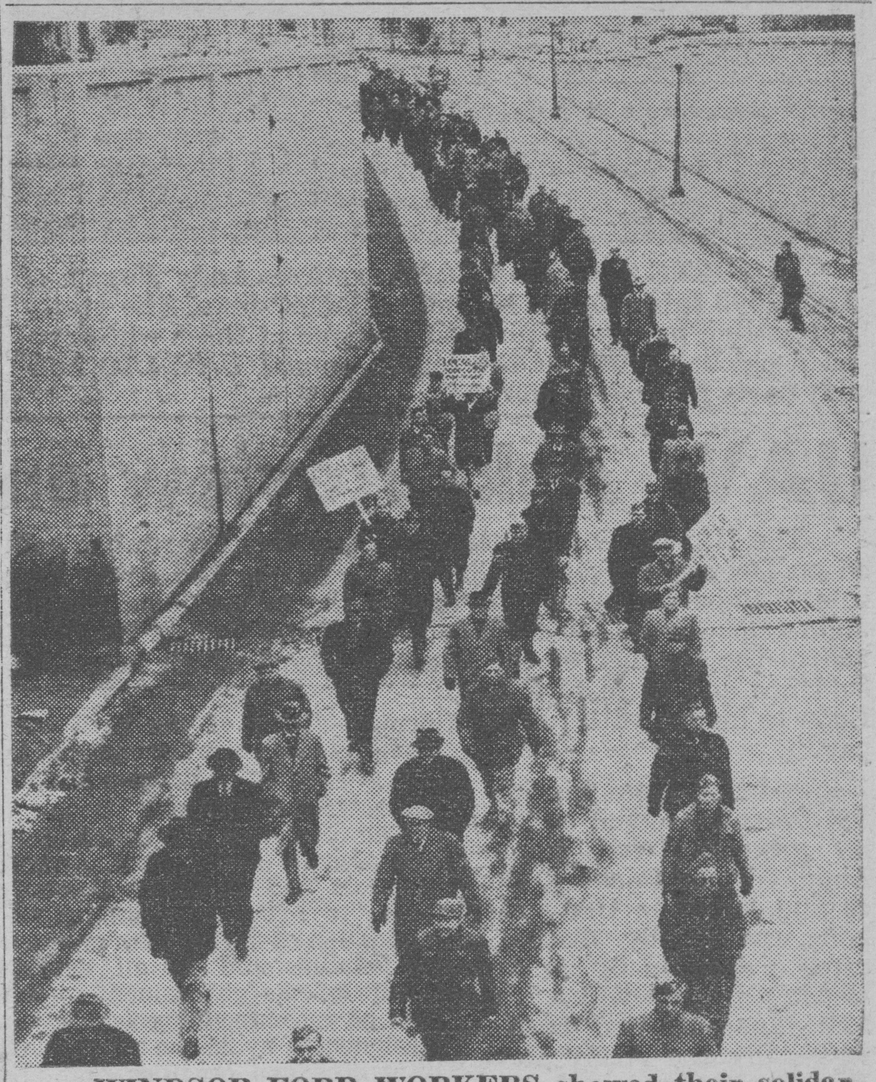
COMPANY SCAB TRY FAILED

In four separate instances apparent Company efforts to promote a "back to work movement", much publicized by the press, failed miserably. At four different membership meetings of Oakville Local 707, prior to Christmas held in towns where Ford workers lived (Brantford, Hamilton, Toronto and Oakville), back-to-work moves were hooted down by strikers.

Currently, a total of some 4500 members are manning Ford picket lines in three cities. There are no scabs, and no work of any kind is being done.

A few Ford dealers have imported '55 models from the U.S. for display purposes, and it is reported that Ford dealers across Canada are screaming about lost business. But their troubles do not seem to have had much effect upon the Company up until the present.

At press time union negotiators were prepared to propose "round-the-clock" sessions now that the horse-trading stage of negotiations appears to have been reached.



WINDSOR FORD WORKERS showed their solidarity with a parade on the 100th day of the strike. That was their way of showing the Company's efforts to build a back-to-work movement had flopped.

Nix on Nixon

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota Then there's the story about how Veep Nixon's bitter attack on ADA (Americans for Democratic Action) backfired. Seems a native Minnesotan came up to Senator Hubert Humphreys, an ADA member, and explained "I don't want any part of a man who says such things about ADA. Why we all belong to the American Dairymen's Association around here.' 'Nuf sed.

Local 937 Wins Arbitration Case

HARTFORD, Connecticut — An arbitrator has upheld UAW-CIO Local 937 in its dispute with the Royal McBee Corporation, involving the company's refusal to take back a seniority worker who had been ill.

The impartial arbitrator ruled that the company, which produces typewriters, had no right to demand that Alton Seymour, a worker with 16 years' seniority, sign a waiver as a condition of returning to work after an illness.

The Connecticut Workmen's Compensation Act allows such waivers, but only on a voluntary, non-compulsory basis. Local 937 had advised Seymour not to sign the waiver. This resulted in a management refusal to put Seymour back to work. Seymour is back, with back pay.

THESE ARE SOME of the more than 7,000 retired workers and their guests who lunched and were entertained at the fourth annual UAW-CIO retired workers' holiday party. Lunch consisted of a quarter chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls and butter, coffee and pie. During the stage show, the retirees were served refreshments.

UAW Does CARE: Gives 10,000 Parcels

Once again demonstrating its humanitarian feelings, the UAW-CIO contributed $5,000 toward purchase of 10,000 CARE Reindeer parcels for overseas distribution to needy trade unionists. Sent to 14 different countries, the Christman packages reached families of Metal Workers who had recently been on strike, as well as many others.

Allocation of the 10,000 gift parcels was as follows: Germany—2000, France—1500, Austria—500, Greece—1000, Italy—1500, Philipines — 500, Ecuador — 250, Columbia — 500, Bolivia — 500, Chile—500, Brazil—250, Costa Rica—500, Haiti—250 and Guatemala—250.

Sh-h-h-, White and Blue

Instead of wasting their time defending America from the Girls Scouts, why don't the National Economic Council and the Illinois American Legion get after some of our pro-communist poetry?

For instance:

Roses are subversive (red, that is)
Violets are Blue
Fellow-travellers (pinks, that is) are Sweet
And so are you.

Just Plain Dealing

We liked the following line from an editorial in the Cleveland *Plain Dealer:* "You referred to guaranteed annual wages as guaranteed socialism. What would you call the guaranteed profits in the Dixon-Yates deal? Guaranteed free enterprise?"

DESPITE HIS 81 YEARS, retiree Andy Fagan of Local 600 turns out to be quite a ladies' man. The pretty gal getting her cheek pinched was one of those who served a chicken lunch at the fourth annual UAW-CIO holiday party for retired workers.

Reuther Chosen 'Man of the Year'

Associated Press editors throughout the country have voted UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther as "labor's man of the year."

Reuther's 1954 fight for governmental full employment policies was one of the reasons most often cited by AP editors.

Reverse English

MONROVIA, California — Yes, it finally happened! A local job applicant applied to the City Employment office, and got his form. Later, he turned it in. There it was! Question seven said: "Give your last employers and work backward." The accurate jobseeker had answered: "1—Srotom Lareneg; 2-Lio Dradnats; 3—Rehtorb Ym." He commented, 'That's the first time I ever tried to write those names backward."

Pick UAW Man

Ray L. Mathieson of UAW-CIO Local 44 in Port Huron, Michigan, has been named to fill a vacancy on the city commission.

Free Press Publisher Knight Claims We Didn't Do Him Right

In the November, 1954, *The United Automobile Worker,* we printed a story reporting the use of racebaiting tactics on behalf of Landon Knight, Republican candidate for Congress in Michigan's 13th District, who was defeated by Charles C. Diggs, Jr., Democrat.

Landon Knight is the son of John S. Knight, publisher of the Detroit *Free Press* and associated Knight newspapers. *The United Automobile* Worker story pointed out that the distributors of the race-baiting literature carried their material in Detroit *Free Press* bags. The Detroit *Free Press* editorially endorsed the candidacy of Landon Knight without mentioning the fact that he was the son of the newspaper's publisher.

Pulling all these facts together, we drew the concusion that the *Free Press* and John Knight, as its publisher, bore some responsibility for the nature of this race-baiting campaign and the nature of it was described and condemned in a statement by the State Committee on Fair Elections, a bipartisan committee, approved by both candidates for governor and headed by the Right Reverned Richard S. Emrich, Episcopal Bishop of Detroit. The committee said the Knight campaign "goes beyond all decency."

Too late for publication in our December issue, we received a letter protesting our story from Mr. John S. Knight. He asked that it be printed. Here it is. We leave our readers to draw their own conclusions as to the veracity of, and justification for, our original story:

* * *

Dear Editor:

My attention has been called to an article on page nine of the November *"United Automobile Worker"* regarding the recent campaign in the 13th Michigan Congressional District in which my son, Landon Knight, lost the election to Charles C. Diggs, Jr.

May I make the following observations?

1. Landon Knight is 30 years old. He makes his own decisions, as he has a right to do. If he wanted to run for Congress, that was his business although I advised him against it.

2. Landon Knight has denied to me any responsibility for the "appeals to racial prejudice" mentioned in your article. I must take his word for that.

3. Landon Knight's use of *Free Press* carrier bags was without my knowledge or that of any other policy making executive.

I have since learned that permission was granted by the Circulation Department on the assurance that the *Free Press* name would not appear. It was a violation of institutional policy which is, no way condoned by me.

4. Landon Knight was endorsed by the *Free Press* as a supporter of the Eisenhower administration, not because he is my son. Mr. Diggs was not "disparaged" in the sense you imply. From all I can learn, he is an extremely capable man.

5. My own record, as a longtime supporter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as press chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and as publisher of the *Free Press* is so well known that I resent the insinuation that I, or the newspaper, would indulge in racial prejudice.

In fairness, I request that you publish this statement in an early issue.

Sincerely,
(s) John S. Knight,
Publisher.

UAW Asks Review on Lupa Case

The UAW-CIO International Executive Board, has called on Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson and Army Secretary Robert Stevens "to review the proceedings against John Lupa, to set aside the decision of the Review Board, to affirm the findings of the Hearing Board which heard the evidence and to restore John Lupa to his job with full back pay."

Suspended from his job at the Detroit Arsenal on security grounds last summer, Lupa, former Packard worker and longtime UAW member, was finally discharged after a decision by an Army hearing board, **which found him innocent,** had been reversed by the Army Review Board without further hearing.

In its resolution, the UAW Board declared "The proceedings against Lupa are a frightening demonstration of the peril confronting every worker engaged in the production of defense items."

EXAMINE SECURITY

The resolution also called upon the Senate and House Armed Services and Judiciary Committees "to make a searching examination of the security systems as administered in all departments of the government to the end of recommending legislation designed to avoid the stupidities, injustices and cruelties that are so manifest in the proceedings against John Lupa . . ."

Lupa, a World War II and Korean veteran, has spent more than 10 years in military service. He volunteered for the Korean action, just as he had volunteered for the Air Corps in 1939.

For reasons not clear to him (or perhaps anyone), service man Lupa, a member of the Naval Reserve, was dismissed from the Detroit Arsenal last April. He was told to contact the FBI, and he did so immediately. They told him he could get immediate employment elsewhere if he would become an FBI informer inside the Socialist Workers Party.

NOT SPYING TYPE

The implication was that if he did this, although it was not so expressly stated, that he might be cleared of the charges against him. The offer was repeated at his home and in the presence of his wife a few days later. Lupa refused.

A three-day hearing before an Air Force Hearing Board was held last June. **No government witness appeared,** while Lupa called 15 witnesses. They all testified that any suggestion that Lupa was a Communits or a subversive was preposterous. Despite a specific request, those connected with the FBI incident either refused to testify or ignored the request.

Kohler President Insults Senator Murray

WASHINGTON — Herbert V. Kohler, club-carrying president of the strikebound Kohler Co., this month crowned his efforts to keep his "Bathtub Barony" something apart from the United States by insulting U. S. Senator James E. Murray (D., Mont.).

Kohler's blast was just one of a series of things bringing the nation's most unusual strike situation to the attention of the 84th Congress.

Big, hulking Herbert Kohler first made nationwide news when he testified, under oath, that he approved of the use of tear gas on strikers and that his company had an arsenal.

More recently his company came under scrutiny again when Charles Wilson's Defense Department gave the "Bathtub Baron" a $2 million shell order despite the fact the Company has been struck for 10 months.

Alan Graskamp, president of UAW-CIO Local 833, took petitions protesting the award to the Defense Department.

Senator Murray, shocked at what he heard, sent Kohler a wire asking, among other things, about the tear gas and guns situation at Kohler. He indicated that was a possible subject for investigation by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Affairs.

* * *

IN HIS REPLY, Kohler said Senator Murray was merely making "propaganda." He indicated to Senator Murray that his strikebreaking methods were his private concern . . . in the same arrogant manner he rejected a suggestion by the Governor of Wisconsin, his nephew, Walter J. Kohler, that the issues in dispute be submitted to arbitration.

Michigan's labor-hating congressman, Clare Hoffman, took the house floor to support Kohler's position. At the same time, Herbert V. Kohler, the Baron, sent copies of his replies to Governor Kohler and Senator Murray to every member of the House and Senate.

Although he included a copy of Senator Murray's wire to him, he neglected to enclose copies of the damaging letter from Governor Kohler.

UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther, by sending every senator and congressman a copy of the missing document in an accompanying letter, pointed out, "The company continues to rely on economic strength and the U. S. government's implied approval contained in the recent defense department award of a $2 million contract for 105 mm. shell casings to win immunity from the announced national policy of promoting peaceful collective bargaining."

Representative Clement J. Zablocki (D., Wis.,) kept the congressional record straight by inserting the "lost" document which Congressman Hoffman conveniently left out . . . the letter from Governor Kohler.

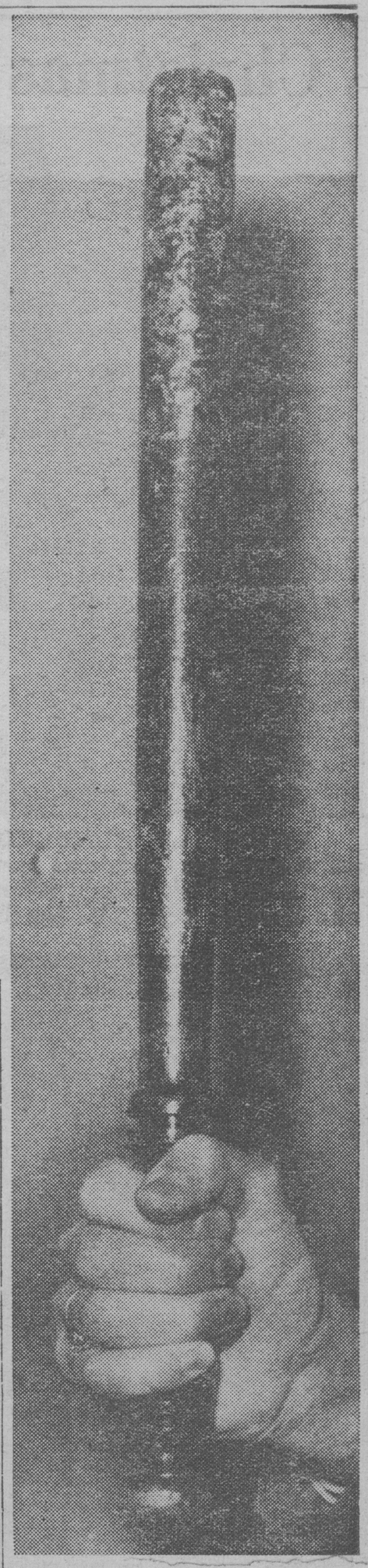
ONCE HERBERT V. KOHLER strode up to the picket line, billy club in hand, and informed a picket, who questioned his legal right to carry a club, "I am the law."

In the company Village of Kohler (where few workers live) and inside that fortress which is the Kohler plant, Herbert Kohler's belief that he is the law too often has been borne out.

Herbert Kohler was on the policy-making level in 1934 when a private Kohler army killed two and wounded 46, only some of whom were strikers. The company was never punished.

Across the street from his plant, Kohler Village still has tear gas—in clear violation of two sets of laws, those of the State of Wisconsin and those of human decency.

But, despite all his efforts to live in his own shadow, Herbert V. Kohler is getting a lot of adverse publicity here in Washington.



THIS IS A SYMBOL of Kohler Co.'s labor policies. The president admitted once, under oath, that he carries a billy club . . . once threatened a picket with one.

FROM ALL OVER the nation, Christmas presents poured in for the Kohler kids. Hundreds of them attended the party; went away with their arms heavily laden.

PAYS TO BE IGNORANT

Ever hear the quiz show, "It pays to be ignorant"?

Herbert V. Kohler, president of Kohler Co., apparently is in ignorance of the laws of decency.

- His spokesmen say they're going to get another 20 years of "labor peace." (The previous 20 came after the 1934 massacre.)
- Under oath, he admitted approving the use of tear gas—from his private arsenal — on strikers. (When that tear gas was removed, he still had tear gas across the street of the Village of Kohler which he controls.)
- He summarily rejected a peace proposal by a federal judge.
- He refused to cooperate in peace efforts made by a circuit court judge.
- He rejected an arbitration proposal made by his nephew, Governor Walter J. Kohler. (The Union has accepted every offered method of arriving at a fair settlement.)
- He advertised for strikebreakers over a wide area.
- He ignored two peace proposals made by the Sheboygan, Wisconsin, newspaper.
- His spokesmen told one official body the strike was costing $46,000 a day—claimed he was making a profit when asked about writing it off in taxes.
- He provided houses in Kohler Village to "scabherders."
- He refused to comply with an NLRB order.

What's the prize for this kind of ignorance? A $2 million order from Charles Wilson's Defense Department.

Harvester's Guerrilla Tactics Bring Avalanche of Grievances

In all its divisions, the sprawling International Harvester Company is carrying on guerrilla warfare against the Union. One apparent goal is to squeeze a few more profits out of its workers by systematic chiseling on rates and classifications.

As the result, there is almost one grievance for every three workers covered by UAW-CIO contracts . . . all piled up before the arbitrator.

35 TO BE HEARD

Region 3 Director Raymond Berndt reports 8,000 grievances are waiting to be heard. The arbitrator's schedule averages seven grievance hearings a month. That means approximately 42 of the 8,000 can be heard before the contract expires August 23.

Harvester, with 25,000 workers, has more grievances awaiting the arbitrator's decision than Big Three in auto had to go to arbitration in the past year.

(General Motors, with 365,000 workers had 41 arbitration cases; Ford with 165,000 workers had 1,811 arbitration cases, Chrysler with 120,000 had 34 arbitration cases in 1954.)

Sometimes Harvester's efforts to cheat on the contract are as brash as those of the poker player who tried to spread four aces with two of them from the same suit. One of the cards which I-H kept up its sleeve when it signed the contract was the part number gimmick.

NEW NUMBERS GAME

Here's an example of how that one works. At Springfield, Ohio, workers make truck cab bodies. They're painted in Fort Wayne. I-H changed the color of the paint. That gave the body a new job number. Harvester used this as an excuse to change rates in Springfield. Nothing in the Springfield operation was changed except the rates.

Harvester makes a "diamond" motor. Sometimes it's called a "black diamond" and sometimes a "green diamond" and sometimes a "silver diamond." By whatever name, it's the same motor. When the name is changed, the number is changed and the rates are changed. Apparently the goal is to make extra profits on the "diamonds" so stockholders will get enough money to buy emeralds.

Another under-the-table device is Harvester's "each on its merits" principle. A dozen men in the same department have the same grievance. One goes to arbitration. If the worker wins, instead of applying the award to the other 11, Harvester wants the rest heard on their merits, too.

I-H PERCENTAGE

Harvester drives for extra profits by demanding a percentage just for being Harvester. The pattern calls for 5-cent annual improvement factors. Harvester pays 4. When the pattern called for $137.50 pensions, Harvester paid $100 (with social security, Harvester is now getting off cheap.) When the pattern called for 19 cents being factored into the base rates, Harvester factored in 17 cents. When other die model makers got a 10-cent boost at Harvester they got nothing.

While its spokesmen spouted patriotic slogans, Harvester for a time, succeeded in reducing the strength of its workers by keeping Communist-dominated FE-UE in some of its plants. But workers have caught on. They're throwing off UE's shackles to join the UAW-CIO.

It all boils down to Harvester's refusal to accept bona fide unions as a part of American life. That attitude can't last.

Last fall, in a talk before the Industrial Relations Association of Chicago, John L. McCaffery, Harvester's president, bore down heavily on seniority, attacking many of its ramifications as "inefficient."

RESPECT AND TRUST

He charged that unions upset the feeling of loyalty which a worker "owes his company" . . . going too far "into the zone of trying to persuade him that his company is his natural enemy, never to be trusted or respected."

Harvester workers naturally wonder what the company has done to win their respect and trust.

Quaker Knows Oats; Quick Pact Reached

ROCKFORD, Illinois—Management of the local Quaker Oats plant demonstrated that it knows its oats by agreeing to a peaceful settlement of 1955 contract demands. This was contrary to the 1954 contract negotiations which resulted in a strike before any agreement could be reached. between the company and UAW Local 781.

Features of the new contract, which provides the highest wage levels in the entire packing industry, are a new hospital and health plan cost of which will be more than 50 per cent borne by management, five cent increases for unskilled workers, ten cent hourly increase for skilled classifications, plus numerous other gains.

'First Amendment' Case Still Up in Air

Federal government prosecutors are apparently in no hurry to bring the case of Harvey O'Connor to trial. O'Connor, former publicity director of the CIO Oil Workers and a veteran labor writer, refused to testify before Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigating committee a year and a half ago, citing the First Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and of the press. O'Connor at the same time declined McCarthy's invitation "to take the Fifth." The Fifth Amendment protects citizens from self-incrimination.

Christmas Parties Everywhere

LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF UAW-CIO locals and regional offices and CIO organizations gave Christmas parties. Typical of these was the one put on by Local 259 in New York. Nick Kenny, columnist and television M.C., center, is assisting Santa Claus, who strongly resembles the Local's president, Milton Finn, distribute the gifts.

MERRIER THAN USUAL was the Christmas enjoyed by children of members of UAW-CIO Local 682, Springfield, Ohio. The Local won a 12-week strike against Thompson Grinder at mid-December. The Springfield Industrial Union Council gave the kids a big party. Passing out the gifts are, l. to r., International Representative Austin Patton, UAW Region 2A Director Ray Ross, Local 682 President Garvis Heath, Committeeman James Green, and, kneeling, Harry DeWitt, president of the Council.

$700,000 Ford Comp Case Going to Appeals' Board

LANSING, Michigan—Michigan's new Democratic attorney general, Thomas Kavanagh, has announced that he will go to bat for the 11,500 Ford workers who were denied $700,000 in unemployment compensation benefits last year because of the anti-labor ruling of Referee Joseph Sternberg.

The ruling, which was appealed by the UAW-CIO, will get another airing this month before a three-member appeals board of the Michigan Employment Security Commission. Kavanagh said he would appear before the board in the public interest, to protect the rights of the Michigan Ford workers who had been idled because of a 1953 strike at the Ford plant in Canton, Ohio.

Kavanagh's action demonstrates the intention of Michigan Democrats to carry out their campaign promises of "government with a heart." It is a marked departure from the policies of his Republican predecessor, who used his office to represent special interests.

GOP's MAN ROUGH

The UAW's appeal, which is being handled by union attorney A. L. Zwerdling, pinpoints three objections to Sternberg's ruling. The referee ruled that the strike at the Ford plant, although in another state, disqualified laid-off Michigan Ford workers from receiving unemployment compensation.

Going even further, Sternberg held that a union attorney had to have written authorization from each claimant before he could represent them before the commission. He also declared that only lawyers could represent claimants before the referee.

This was the first time Michigan workers had been denied benefits because of a strike in another state.

Attorney General Kavanagh said this was "one of a class of cases where the attorney general has not been previously represented, and now I propose to represent the people and get a decision that is just."

SAVED BY VOTERS

Frank Millard, the Republican defeated by Kavanagh, had taken the opposite position in the Ford case, holding that the workers should be denied benefits because the Canton plant was part of the Ford establishment.

ODDS 'N ENDS

by Ruby McDonald

NOTE TO CLEM

Clement D. Johnson, Pres.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Washington, D.C.
Dear Clem:

I swear, if I didn't know there was a current epidemic of hoof in mouth disease going around, I'd be inclined to think you'd lost some of your buttons. C. E. Wilson may have gone to the dachshunds, Son, but you're only a wag and a woof behind him.

For instance, in that speech you gave in Flint recently, you used more adjectives and less facts than I've seen in any one place since the GOP Convention. You said, Clem, that "certain labor Unions were engaged in price fixing" even though you pathetic 'lil businessmen were prevented by law from doing so. That with the growth of Union power "comes emphasis on more pay for less work, with the bill passed along to the public."

BACKWARD LOGIC

That the high bracket income tax "is not so much a tax on the rich as it is on the chances of the poor to become rich." That industry is spending $3 billion a year in research just "to open new frontiers for our youth, opportunities far surpassing those provided to our pioneer ancestors by the western frontier."

Then, with a generosity that brings a lump to my throat (and I'm not sure whether it's nausea or emotion) you said: "I am sure that no one would propose to disturb those Union activities which are directly related to representation of employes in regards to wages, hours and working conditions. But those that are not related to these objectives and which are clearly contrary to the public interest, should be prohibited." And with that, you sounded a clarion call for Congressional investigation of the dirty birds and toddled off to sip tea and munch crumpets with the air of a David who has just hamstrung his Goliath.

Now really, Clem . . .

If that's the kind of reasoning you used in businss, it must have kept old lady luck flapping her coattails to get you out of the pushcart category.

WHY THE UNION

Let's assume, for one wild eyed moment, that you actually meant the statement about granting labor the right to fight for decent wages, hours and working conditions. Why, Clem, my fuddled friend, did they have to fight for them? Why weren't these three simple things a matter of course in business and industry? Wasn't it because business and industry were not concerned with their employes except as a usable commodity necessary to their financial success? You're cotton pickin' right it was!

That's how Unions were born, Clem, out of hopelessness and desperation. Furthermore, Clem, these rights are not yours to grant. They are human rights, inherent, not bestowed as largess.

Let's take it a little further.

What happens when there is a speed up in the shop, shenanigans with working time or when a miner, say, finds he owes most of his wages to a company store? The worker protests to his employer. Said employers have a remarkably consistent record of giving bronx cheers instead of justice. That's when the union, Clem, m'boy, (which is the injured party plus all those next in line for the same backhand) steps in and, when necessary, ties up that particular business until someone sees the light. It is a last resort and you and your buddies make it necessary, although your commercials during such a strike, read differently.

CROSSED WIRES

You also mentioned 'Pioneers' in your speech, Son, and the whopping sums you fellows are spending for research which is going to make all our baby boys either Presidents or Edisons. You kinda got your wires crossed. The Pioneers were the calloused gents who fought forest, Indians and ignorance to clear a place so's the stock market crowd could come in later and invent mortgages and carrying charges. And if we're raising little geniuses now, it's because we're finally able, by pinching, to send the kids all the way through high school and mebbe to college.

Personally, Clem, if I were you, I wouldn't hold out too much hope for the poor to become rich by lowering your income taxes. Y'see, your wife was telling all about your 450 acre estate in Virginia, where you raise cain and cattle alternately, the fact that your children attend exclusive schools, and that you two have travelled 200,000 wonderful, scenic miles.

Us cruds think a city lot is a whole heap of dirt, we send our kids to overcrowded, public cracker boxes and the one time we take a long trip, we're wearing shrouds.

We're real dumb, Clem. We can't figure out how keeping our mouths shut and lowering **your** income tax is gonna get us any of that gilded schmaltz.

Chrysler Gets Mystery Voice

CHRYSLER has a mystery.

There seems to be a Human Being skulking in the offices somewhere. He isn't doing any harm, apparently, except drawing pay.

The intriguing situation came to light in a press release describing a new gadget, called the Electrolytic Facsimile.

This "almost perfect communications medium", according to C. L. Horner, supervisor of Systems and Procedures for Chrysler, will transmit photographs, letters, drawings, pencilled notes, or the human voice. What's more, it never loses anything from the files, because it never removes anything.

It has one apparent drawback. It reproduces so faithfully that even money "looks too much like the real thing", according to the press release.

Consistent readers of the Auto Worker, who have been kept up to date on Automation and the big campaign to eliminate Human Beings from industry (and the payroll) as rapidly as possible, will spot the mystery right away, and possibly even spot the solution.

* * *

THE mystery: why does Electrolytic Facsimile bother to transmit the human voice? It's supposed to eliminate human beings, isn't it?

The problem of the facsimile money that "looks too much like the thing" is simple enough to solve. It's the ideal medium in which to pay off Automatic File Clerks.

The solution to the mystery of that "human voice" the Facsimile transmits is, after all, quite simple. There IS a human being around. Stands to reason. C. L. Horner, who sent out the press release is still there, isn't he?

And the money HE draws in HIS paycheck is all that's needed, to reproduce the facsimile money for all the automatic clerks.

The future has arrived at Chrysler . . . . clickety-clickety-click.