

# The United Automobile Worker

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

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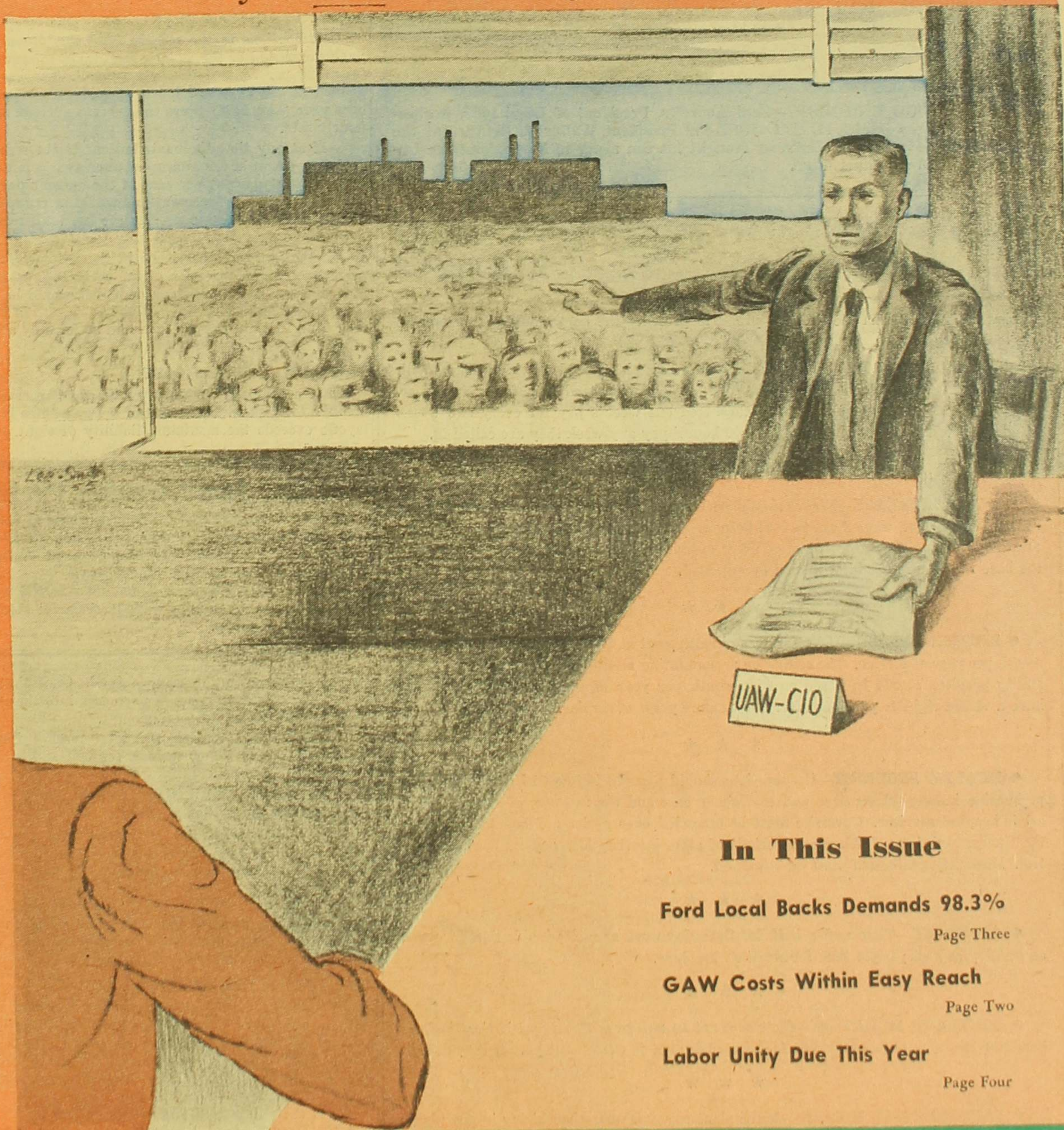
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## UAW Mobilizing Full Strength Behind '55 Bargaining Demands

See Pages Two and Three

*'They're ALL at the Bargaining Table'*



### In This Issue

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Labor Unity Due This Year  
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## Ford and GM Praise Benefits Won by Union

See Pages Six and Seven

# Industry Can Easily Afford to Give You Job Security Cost Details of Guaranteed Annual Wage Reveal



**THREE GOOD UNIONISTS**—Paul Andrews, President of Local 1097, Rochester, N. Y.; his son Daniel, 11, chat with UAW President Walter P. Reuther at the GM Conference in Detroit. Andrews brought his son along to learn about the Union's fight for the annual wage.

## KEY DEMANDS FOR 1955

The bargaining demands UAW-CIO has spoken for through democratic process—the bargaining program the Union is proud to present—the bargaining goals members are mobilizing to win:

● **GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT PLAN**—This plan would provide workers with two or more years of seniority guaranteed work or guaranteed pay for a full year. Workers with less seniority would be guaranteed one week's pay for every two weeks of service. Workers would also be paid 40 hours' pay any week they are called in.

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● **WAGE INCREASE**—Wages should be brought up to the level they would have reached if the 1948 wage formula had been implemented properly. The size of the improvement factor should be increased; cost-of-living floats should be incorporated into the base rates. The escalator should be adjusted.

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● **RETIREMENT SECURITY**—Normal retirement at 65 should be based on \$2.50 a month per year of service. The ceiling on accumulating credits should be removed. Disability pensions should be based on \$5 a month per year of service. Workers should have a vested right to pensions after five or more years of service.

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● **HEALTH SECURITY**—Corporations should pay the full cost of plans with comprehensive in-hospital services and emergency care and the full cost of surgical-medical in-hospital services. Coverage must be extended over periods of layoff covered by the Guaranteed Annual Wage and periods of other interruptions beyond workers' control. Disability protection must be improved.

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● **OVERTIME**—Time and a half for Saturday work as such; double time for work on Sunday as such; triple time for work on holidays.

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● **CONTRACT DURATION**—Contracts not to run over two years if they include escalator and annual improvement factor clauses; not to exceed one year if they do not.

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● **PREFERENTIAL HIRING**—Multi-plant corporations, when hiring in any plant, must give preference, in order of seniority, to workers laid off from other plants. All corporations under UAW-CIO contracts should give preference to laid-off workers in the same area and industry when hiring.

Figures on the cost of the UAW-CIO Guaranteed Employment Plan were released May 5 by the International Union after they had been presented to Ford and General Motors in negotiations, and they confounded the NAM and Chamber of Commerce gloom and doom boys who had been direly predicting that the Union's proposal would wreck the economy.

The gross cost of contributions into the reserve fund to back up the plan will be only about eight cents an hour.

If you take into account that the money put into such a fund is not taxable, the net cost is only four cents an hour.

In a recent statement, an NAM official had charged the cost of the guarantee would be 40 per cent of payroll.

The net cost of accumulating the total reserve fund, over a five-year period, would be about the same amount as GM and Ford saved in the single year of 1954 as a result of the elimination of the excess profits tax.

At no time, during the operation of the plan, would an employer be liable for more than eight per cent of his current payroll.

### SOLID, PRACTICAL PLAN

Contributions to the reserve fund would continue over a five-year period or for as long as it takes to accumulate a total of 20 per cent of the base payroll. The base payroll is defined as the highest number of manhours worked in a recent year (like 1953) times the current average straight-time hourly rate.

If at any time the contributions to the reserve fund, plus payment of the guarantee to currently laid-off workers, exceeded eight per cent of the current payroll, then payments into the reserve fund would be reduced and the time it would take to accumulate the total reserve fund would be extended.

On the basis of experience in the automobile industry—since the major depression of the early 1930's—it would seldom, if ever, happen that an employer would be required to meet the maximum liability of eight per cent of current payroll. And if it did happen, it would be for only a brief period of time.

### TAX SAVING PARES COST

Once a company accumulates the total reserve fund, payments into it cease. If the cost of the guarantee in subsequent layoffs exceeds the maximum liability of eight per cent, the

## Oh, Them Golden Profits

Out of General Motors' record profits of \$685,000,000 for the first quarter of 1955, the Corporation has generously set aside \$36,239,000 for payment of bonuses to executives, come the first of next year.

On an annual basis, this amount **ALONE** would provide a 15.7 cents an hour wage increase for every hourly-rated GM employe.

employer draws on the reserve fund. Once that crisis was passed the employer resumes payments into the reserve fund to replenish it up to the total amount.

Using round figures, the total reserve fund would amount to about \$350 million for GM and \$130 million for Ford.

The annual contribution would be about \$70 million for GM and \$26 million for Ford.

Since money paid into the reserve fund is not subject to federal tax, the net cost of accumulating the total reserve fund will be about \$170 million for GM and about \$60 million for Ford.

(If these sums were retained by the companies as profits, they would be taxed at the rate of 52 cents on the dollar. Therefore, it costs the companies only 48 cents on the dollar to pay it into the reserve fund.)

### ONE YEAR'S TAX SAVINGS

Elimination of the excess profits tax meant savings for GM, in the single year of 1954, of about \$175 million. Ford's savings in that same year are estimated also to have been about equal to its net cost of accumulating the total reserve. (Since Ford does not publish financial statements, this has to be estimated.)

With the publication of these figures, the NAM doomsters and the C of C gloomsters, who have been voluntarily running interference for the auto employers, have had to re-sharpen their pencils and oil their comptometers and do some refiguring.

Ford and GM still haven't said anything.

# Ford-GM Councils Ask Membership: Back Negotiators With Strike Vote

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## Locals Mobilizing Full Bargaining Power Behind Efforts to Secure Just Contracts

Both the National UAW-CIO Ford and General Motors Councils voted unanimously this month that local unions representing workers in plants of the two corporations shall proceed to conduct strike votes.

The action was taken in both instances with emphasis on the fact that a strong strike vote to back up the negotiating committees is the best insurance against a strike in either Corporation.

The two Councils met on the same day, Monday, May 9, in Detroit. Some votes were already under way as this issue of *The United Automobile Worker* went to press. Others will follow in close order over a period of about 10 days to two weeks.

### CORPORATIONS SEEK SPEED-UP

"It was the unanimous judgment of both our Ford and General Motors committees that we had arrived at the point where the lack of progress in the negotiations justifies our taking a strike vote at this time," UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther said. "We shall continue to do everything humanly possible to avoid a strike."

UAW-CIO Vice-President John W. Livingston, director of the Union's GM Department; E. S. Patterson, assistant GM Department director, and Ken Bannon, director of the Ford Department, reported on negotiations to their respective Council meetings.

They said that the only counter-offers from the two Companies to date had been proposals to dilute and weaken the existing contracts. No counter-offers have been made on the Union's guaranteed employment proposal or on other major economic issues. The corporation proposals to date had been designed to weaken the grievance procedure, to make possible increases in the speed of work, to make more difficult remedies for health and safety hazards, to cut down on Union representation and other such measures.

### COUNCILS REJECT PROPOSALS

The Councils rejected the Company counter-proposals.

Vice-President Livingston said there had been 17 collective bargaining meetings with General Motors since the first informal, exploratory talks began in March.

Director Bannon and Chairman Gene Prato of the National Ford Council said in a joint statement:

"It is the desire of the International Union, the National UAW-CIO Ford Council and the Ford local unions to avoid a strike. Ford workers and the general public can be confident we shall do everything possible to do so. We stated on April 12 at the outset of negotiations that we would examine every avenue open for a just and peaceful settlement. That is still our aim."

Delegates left the Council meetings immediately to take the report of negotiations back to their home local unions.

Meanwhile, negotiations with Ford resumed May 11 and bargaining with General Motors was to be renewed May 16.

# 98.3%

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky —At press time, workers at the Ford assembly plant here completed the first of the nationwide series of strike votes.

Members of UAW-CIO Local 862 voted 98.3 per cent in favor of striking if necessary to win a just contract. The count:

1,663 YES  
28 NO

All but 93 members cast ballots. Talk about bargaining power!

## NMU to Seek Annual Wage

NEW YORK (PAI)—The CIO National Maritime Union has announced that it will press for a form of the Guaranteed Annual Wage when it opens negotiations with the American steamship lines for a new pact effective June 15.

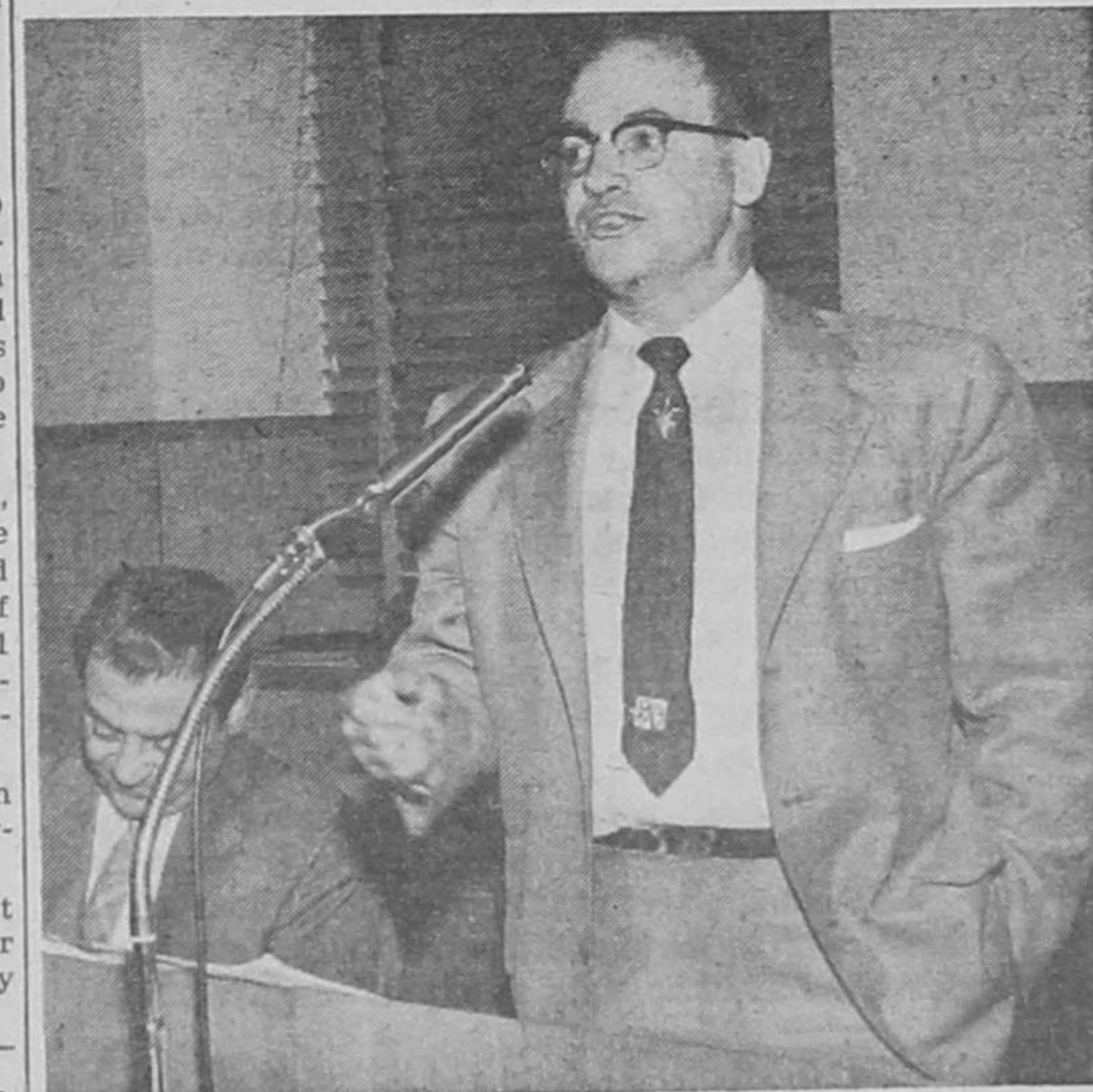
NMU President Joseph Curran, in a statement, carried in the union's newspaper, *The Pilot*, said that he will ask Atlantic and Gulf Coast companies to support a \$1 million a month "guaranteed annual employment insurance security" plan.

Under the plan, regular seamen would be guaranteed income during periods of layoffs.

"We are going to propose that the shipping companies pay for this by setting aside regular daily amounts," Curran said.



"THE UNION'S DEMANDS are designed to build job security and economic justice, but GM's proposals would go far toward lessening those things," Vice-President John W. Livingston, director of the UAW's GM Department, tells delegates to the GM Council.



SPEED UP and a weaker contract would be the result of accepting Ford's counter-offers, Ken Bannon, director of the Union's National Ford Department, reports at Ford Council meeting.



THE COVETED Philip Murray Award of the CIO Community Services Committee is presented to the First Lady of the Free World, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, at a dinner in New York City by UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther, left, and CIO Communications Workers' President Joseph A. Beirne, committee chairman.

## Strike Vote Pays Off Big At Hayes Plant

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama —Workers at the Hayes Aircraft plant here are still celebrating their contract gains. The new pact was signed this month after workers took a strike vote to back up the committee which had spent fruitless weeks at the bargaining table.

Local 1155 won a six-cent wage increase this year, an automatic five-cent increase for next year, a seventh paid holiday, but some of the most important gains were in the fringes.

The contract establishes a

## Unions Romp Home With 629 NLRB Wins

WASHINGTON — Unions won 629 out of 965 representation elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board during the first three months of 1955.

About 72 per cent of the workers who voted in these elections cast their ballots for unions.

During the same period, 1,024 charges of unfair labor practices were brought against employers.

non-contributory life and health-surgical insurance plan with substantial improvements in benefit levels, and some added services like X-ray and laboratory benefits.

Flight pay was improved. Overtime is now paid for Saturday work as such, and the all-important seniority provisions are strengthened.

# CIO and AFL OK Unity Constitution; Merged Convention Set December 5

The CIO and AFL are scheduled to take the final merger step December 5th in New York City.

Both organizations reshuffled their convention schedules this month and booked simultaneous conventions in New York for December 1 and 2.

If delegates to both approve the proposed constitution for the new organization, and the OK seems certain, the new organization will spring into being as the two delegate bodies merge into one.

The CIO Convention, originally scheduled for Buffalo, was moved to the Manhattan Center in New York after it became clear that labor unity was in sight. The AFL switched its convention to the Hotel Statler in New York. The first convention of the merged labor organization will be held December 5 in the 71st Regimental Armory.

## UNITY COMMITTEE DRAFTS CONSTITUTION

Early this month, the AFL-CIO Unity Committee met in Washington. In a joint statement, CIO President Walter P. Reuther and AFL President George Meany announced that the Committee had agreed on a proposed Constitution. At the same time, they set up the Convention time table, subject to approval by both the CIO and AFL Executive Boards.

Within a week, both bodies voted to accept the proposed Constitution and endorsed the Convention arrangements.

Reuther and Meany termed the proposed new Constitution "a forward-looking document, geared to the needs of a democratic labor movement conscious of its responsibility to the people of this nation and the free world."

"In the words of this new Constitution," their joint statement said, "we shall seek the fulfillment of the hopes and aspirations of the American working people through democratic processes, within the framework of our constitutional government and consistent with our institutions and traditions. . . ."

"We shall combat resolutely the forces which seek to undermine the democratic institutions of our nation and to enslave the human soul. We shall strive always to win full respect for the dignity of the human individual whom our unions serve."

## CLEAN PROGRESSIVE UNIONISM

"This new Constitution carries out implicitly the language and the spirit of the merger agreement which our Joint Unity Committee signed on February 9. It recognizes the equal status of craft and industrial unions. It offers a closed-door policy to unions controlled or directed by Communist or other totalitarians. It promotes democratic unionism. It recognizes that all workers, whatever their race, color, creed or national origin, are entitled to share fully in the benefits of trade unionism," they added:

"It provides effective remedies for keeping the new organization free of both corruption and totalitarianism, and for quick and effective penalties against unions which fail to measure up to the high ethical and moral standards to which the public has a right to expect of our affiliated organizations."

"It is our belief that this Constitution, an amalgam of the best of the CIO and AFL Constitutions, is without peer as a fundamental charter for a democratically dedicated labor federation."

"It is a measure of the spirit of unity which has been uppermost in the minds of the representatives of both the CIO and AFL that this Constitution was so quickly worked out by our Committee. We firmly believe that it keeps faith with the hopes and best interests of the men and women of labor and all the citizens of this great nation."

## Ex-Li'l Godfreys To Get Big Checks

NEW YORK CITY—Behind the coast-to-coast headlines on Arthur Godfrey's firing of six members of his cast lies an unpublicized union story, leaders of AFL and CIO television unions revealed. Without warning Godfrey fired singer Marion Marlowe, Hawaiian dancer Haleloke and the Mariners quartette (along with

three writers). Not many years back, the AFL and CIO men pointed out, the six performers would have been out in the cold although they were fired in the middle of their contracts. Today, however, union protections are such that the six will continue to receive pay checks—totaling \$75,000—through July.



ANOTHER STEP TO LABOR UNITY—The press gets the story on the proposed constitution for the nearly merged AFL and CIO. Meeting the reporters are, left to right, William F. Schnitzler, AFL secretary-treasurer; President George Meany of the AFL, President Walter P. Reuther of the CIO, James B. Carey, CIO secretary-treasurer. It was a big day in labor history.

## GM's Pressure Tactics Stall FEP Bill in Flint

FLINT, Michigan—That the General Motors Corporation is not interested in fair employment practices was proven once again last month when its local spokesmen helped defeat attempts by the UAW-CIO and other groups to have a fair employment practices ordinance passed for the city of Flint.

Under heavy pressure from GM, the *Flint Daily Journal*, the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups, two city commissioners reversed themselves and voted against the FEP proposal. This reversal kills the bill for the time being.

### OK IN MARCH

Last March, the ordinance to end discriminatory hiring practices passed a first reading by a vote of six to two.

But when the bill came up for its second reading last month, two city commissioners suddenly changed their minds and voted against it, resulting in a four-to-four tie, which killed the proposal.

The reason for this last-minute switch was all too apparent. City Commissioner David S. Magee, who stuck to his guns by con-

tinuing to champion the FEP ordinance, revealed that a GM executive—Joseph A. Anderson, manager of the AC Spark Plug plant—had spent 45 minutes in his office in an effort to convince Magee to vote against the proposal.

### PACKED HOUSE

The two commissioners who changed their votes gave no logical explanation of their change of heart, but their real reasons are obvious in light of the facts revealed by Magee.

However, GM did not rely on such behind-the-scenes tactics alone. According to the *Flint Weekly Review*, local CIO paper, the city commission room was packed with early-arriving GM supervisory em-

## Salk's Dad Unionist

NEW YORK—Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Local 142 last month honored Daniel Salk, a former ILGWU member. They decided he was a good dad as well as a good unionist. His son, Dr. Jonas Salk, is the discoverer of the anti-polio vaccine.

ployes, while UAW-CIO members and other supporters of the FEP legislation crowded the hallway outside the chamber, unable to get in.

Demonstrating the need for an FEP ordinance, supporters of the bill cited Flint unemployment figures, showing that 25 per cent of the unemployed are Negroes, which is all out of proportion with the total number of Negro citizens in the city.

Norman Bully, president of the Flint CIO Council and a member of UAW-CIO Local 599, declared there was a real need for a fair employment bill in the city.

"It is true we have made progress," he asserted, "but education is still needed, and we need the ordinance for people who deliberately refuse to be educated."

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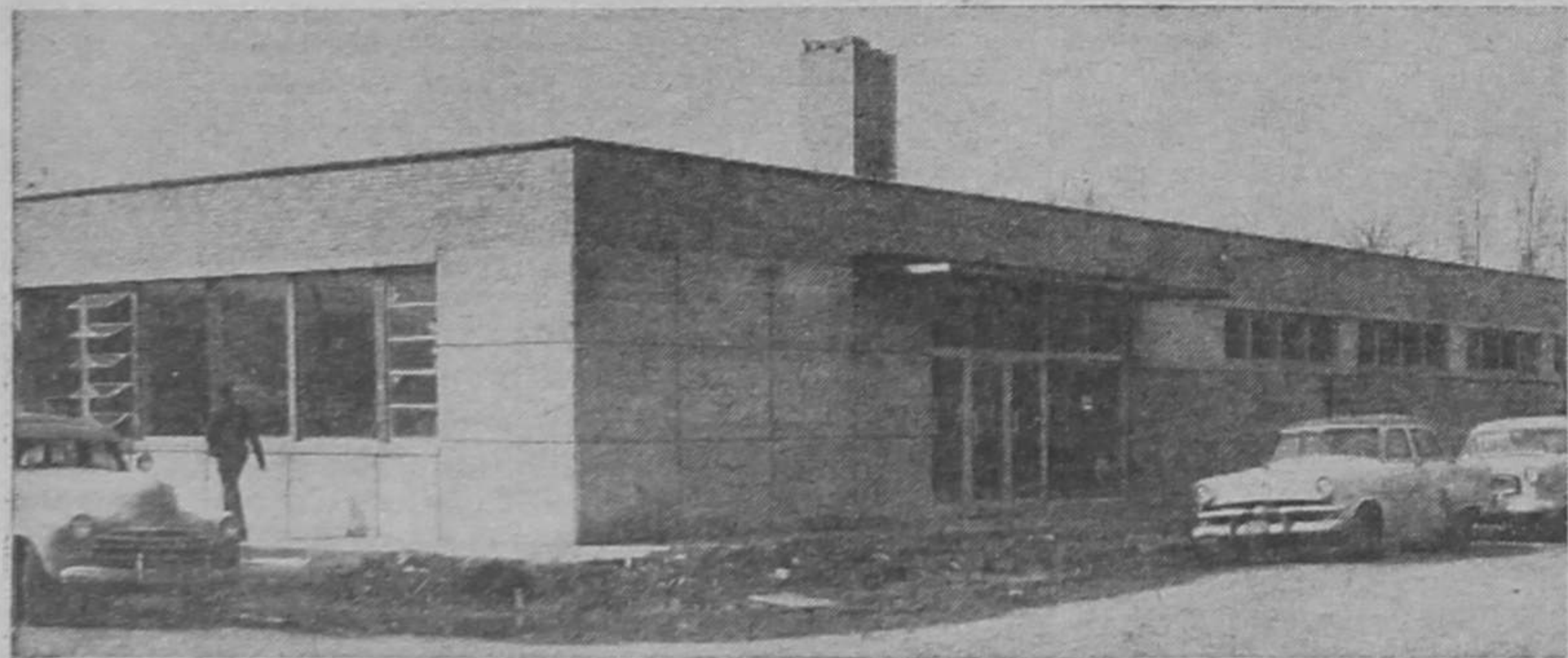
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THIS HANDSOME BUILDING is the new home of UAW-CIO Local 974, in East Peoria, Illinois. President Walter P. Reuther was the main speaker at dedication ceremonies held last month. The Local represents workers at the Caterpillar Tractor Company. The building is one of East Peoria's finest.

GM, Ford Go First

# American Motors Sessions Delayed for GAW Drive

At the Union's request, the national agreement between the UAW-CIO and American Motors Corporation, covering employes of the former Nash-Kelvinator plants, has been extended to August 12, it was announced by UAW-CIO Vice-President Leonard Woodcock, director of the UAW's American Motors Department.

Part of the agreement was scheduled to expire on June 1 and the rest on July 1.

At the same time, the agreement covering the former Hudson plants, which was not scheduled to end until October 1, was also given the August 12 termination date. This will enable both sides to negotiate a new national agreement for all AMC plants at the same time.

### TO CONSOLIDATE PACTS

Although American Motors was formed last year through a merger of the Hudson and Nash-Kelvinator companies, union contracts remained separate. The agreement to consolidate the contracts into one was made last month during exploratory talks held by the Union and AMC.

The agreement also provides for holiday pay for AMC workers for the Fourth of July and for a continuation of the cost-of-living formula during the extension period. All other matters will be subject to further negotiations when these are resumed prior to the new August expiration date.

AMC local unions, which represent some 21,000 workers, were voting on the agreement as *The United Automobile Worker* went to press. Woodcock said he expected the locals would ratify the contract extension.

### STUDYING GUARANTEE

In a related development, the Corporation announced

early this month that eight leading economists, including some who served on the UAW's Public Advisory Committee, have accepted AMC's invitation to advise the firm on the Union's Guaranteed Annual Wage proposal.

The economists are: Dr. William Haber, University of Michigan; Dr. Richard Lester, Princeton University; Dr. Alvin Hansen, Dr. Seymour Harris, and Dr. Sumner Slichter, all of Harvard University; Dr. Edwin E. Witte, University of Wisconsin; Prof. Vincent Bladen, University of Toronto; and Dr. Arthur Altmeyer, of Madison, Wisconsin.

In announcing the invitation, Edward L. Cushman, AMC director of industrial relations, said:

"American Motors is committed to taking every practicable step toward achieving regular and continuous employment. Seeking the advice of these economists is one phase of our objective study of the UAW's proposal to determine whether it would contribute to increased employment stability at AMC."

### Boost County Fair Plans

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Expansion of its already extensive work with farmers is planned by the Minnesota State CIO Council. Their Farm Relations Committee plans 30 booths at county fairs.



AN AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED service to the community is presented to Mildred Jeffrey, head of the UAW-CIO Community Relations Department, and to two other Detroiters by Wayne County, Michigan, Circuit Court Judge George Edwards. The award is given annually by Branch 463-E of the Workmen's Circle, a fraternal group. Left to right: Judge Edwards, Mrs. Jeffrey, Father Clement Kern, pastor of Detroit's Most Holy Trinity Church, and Boris M. Joffe, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Detroit.

## For Better or For Worse? Automation Here to Stay

WASHINGTON, D. C.—For better or for worse, automation is with us—and 300 delegates to a National CIO conference on the subject dedicated themselves to the task of guiding the new industrial revolution to its best possible path.

UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther told the gathering that "light not heat" was needed in dealing with automation—and its by-products of unemployment, industrial dislocation.

### WARN OF DANGERS

A number of experts in the field addressed the CIO conference—and some of the authorities disagreed among themselves. A few upheld management's position that everything would work itself out — just wait and see. Most of the experts, however, urged that the nation cushion itself against the effects of

the new technology on jobs and the nation's economy. All of them agreed that automation requires continued study and observation.

Meanwhile, a Congressional joint subcommittee will shortly open a study of automation and the problems it poses for the American worker. The four purposes of the Congressional inquiry:

- Find out the effects on employment, investments.
- Make studies of what has already happened where automation takes place.
- Ascertain what management's plans are.
- Recommend any legislation needed to see that automation does "not produce serious . . . unemployment."

Writing in the *ICFTU News*, Reuther termed automation the "second industrial revolution" and pointed to the Guaranteed Annual Wage as a partial answer to the problems caused by it.

### SEES GREAT CHALLENGE

"Science and technology are giving us the tools for economic abundance," Reuther pointed out. "We intend to do all in our power to see to it that these tools will help to bring peace, freedom and improved living conditions, as well as a greater measure of security and leisure to mankind everywhere."

### GM Tries to Raid Flint Pay Envelopes

FLINT, Michigan — The General Motors Corporation and CIO and AFL unions are again on opposite sides of the fence on another important issue in Flint: how to raise additional revenues. The question is: Out of which pocketbook is the money going to come—GM's or the workers'?

GM has proposed a one per cent payroll tax, with the money deducted from the paycheck of every employed person in Flint, just as the federal income tax is now deducted. However, the tax would NOT apply to Company earnings.

The unions favor an increase in the existing assessments on industrial and commercial property.

### And Brass Hats

WASHINGTON—Pro-labor Senator Robert Kerr (D., Okla.), passed on to his constituents the following summation of the present Administration: "The Democrats are in the atomic age. The Republicans are still in the metallic age—silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, and lead in their pants."

### Health Institute Services Placed In Detroit Clinic

Diagnostic services for Detroit area UAW members formerly provided at the UAW-CIO Health Institute are now being offered at the Metropolitan Hospital and Clinic.

The change of location was announced by Dr. Kenneth E. McIntyre, director of the Health Activities Division of the UAW-CIO Social Security Department.

The move was decided upon at a meeting of Detroit Regional Directors and officers of local unions affiliated with the Institute because of the Institute's inadequate physical facilities.

Medical diagnostic services are now being purchased by the UAW from the Clinic, with the objective of providing better service for the membership. The Clinic is run on a non-profit basis, and the quality of its service will be under constant check by Dr. McIntyre.

Arrangements have also been made so that Blue Shield or any similar insurance schedule of fees will provide full payment for surgery or in-hospital medical care for those wishing to be hospitalized in the Metropolitan Hospital and Clinic.

### 3 UAW Staff Members Honored With Awards

Three UAW-CIO staff members are recipients of recent awards.

Education Director Brendan Sexton and Jack Conway, administrative assistant to UAW President Walter P. Reuther, were given Centennial Award Citations by Michigan State University in connection with the school's 100th anniversary celebration.

Mildred Jeffrey, head of the UAW's Community Relations Department, was honored with an award for distinguished service to the community by Detroit Branch 463-E of the Workmen's Circle, a fraternal group.



THERE ARE SMILES all around as Margaret Rushford of UAW-CIO Local 163, Detroit, shows a check for \$1,449 to Edward Cote, co-director of Region 1A, while International Representative Tom Canter beams his approval. The check represents a back-pay award of \$1,819 minus taxes, which the George C. Knight Co. had to pay for firing Margaret during an organizing drive in 1951. She was reinstated in 1953. Canter and Leo Shaffer, former president of Local 163, were responsible for the settlement.

# General Motors and Ford Boast (But They Don't Give UAW Members)

Once, in fable, two lions stalked a tender, young buffalo from one side of a clearing while a hunter approached from the other. Just as the lions were about to charge, a shot rang out. The buffalo fell instantly, quivered and lay still.

The lions paused, sniffed the air, then padded in and began to feast. However, they soon fell into a quarrel over which of them had scared the buffalo to death.

Each lion maintained, "Boy, I'm the one really responsible for all these wonderful provisions."

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At press time, as negotiations roar toward their climax, General Motors and Ford are acting like those two talking lions.

Both are taking credit for a host of contract provisions wrung from them by the solidarity of their workers.

Each admits that the pensions and health insurance and other fringe benefits are wonderful . . . just the opposite of what they claimed before these contract provisions were won.

### FORGOT OUR STRUGGLES

Now the lions of the auto industry are trying to rewrite history apparently in an effort to convince workers that the gains of the last 15 years were made because of giant business' generosity . . . and not because workers stuck together to force those issues.

While they're telling the general public how big hearted they really are, both have quietly laid on the bargaining table counter demands designed to weaken the Union and dilute the contract.

Take the Ford Motor Company's house organ! Recently the various versions put out at the different

plants told auto workers that the fringe benefits they get are worth 36 cents an hour.

Ford claims these fringes brought its workers a \$97 million "extra pay check." (See story in Ford paper lower right.)

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### \$736 A YEAR IN EXTRAS

The official Company figures on how successful the Union has been are: those fringe extras are worth \$736 a year to the typical auto worker.

Ford even boasts about "The Company's non-contributory retirement plan . . . (which) benefits many thousands of workers."

It plumb forgot to mention that in 1949, Ford negotiators battled the pension plan right down to the wire . . . and granted it only in the face of a strike vote.

You can read the Ford story on the fringes with a magnifying glass, and you won't even find the Union mentioned.

Not one of those benefits, including holiday and vacation pay, sick and accident insurance, health insurance, life insurance existed before Ford workers united as a fighting part of the UAW-CIO.

★ ★ ★

### GM GETS REAL FOLKSY

In a color movie, and in a recent nationwide ad, GM's playing pretty much the same tune. Only GM got folksy and broke down the benefits in terms of how much GM workers had received in each city.

Why in Detroit alone, \$18,573,206 worth of hospital care has been received by GM employes since September 1, 1950. (See portion of ad below.)

GM just forgot to mention that in 1941, the UAW-CIO had a major fight on its hands getting

Generous Motors just . . .  
ments from pay che . . .  
any part of the cos . . .  
part of it until 1950 . . .

Why in Detroit alone . . .  
321,817 in death benef . . .  
every penny of it.

But GM convenient . . .  
played—through the . . .  
building the insurance . . .  
boasts about.

### FOUGHT EVERY MAJ

In fact, every one . . .  
into being despite the . . .  
opposition of the auto . . .  
that General Motors a . . .  
of pensions and holiday . . .  
licize them.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT—**

- \$7,536,005 in sickness and accident benefits have been paid to Detroit GM plant employes in the last five years.
- \$18,573,206 worth of hospital care has been received by Detroit GM employes and their families since September 1, 1950. This came through Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage paid for equally by GM and GM employes.
- \$11,321,817 in death benefits have been paid to beneficiaries of 1,974 Detroit GM employes since 1950.
- 2,488 GM Detroit retirees are receiving monthly pension checks. A GM plant employe, whose wife is 65, may actually receive a total retirement income of \$200 or more a month from the GM plan and Federal Social Security combined.

**GENERAL MOTORS**  
CADILLAC • FISHER BODY • DETROIT DIESEL  
TRANSMISSION • TERNSTEDT



# (Fringe Benefits Won by Union Gives Any Credit for Winning Them)

...duct Blue Cross pay-  
... GM wasn't paying  
... it never paid any

...d, it has paid out \$11,-  
...and obviously counted

...t the role the Union  
... of its members—in  
... the Corporation now

...fringe benefits came  
... and sometimes bitter  
... Still, it's good to know  
... are now proud enough  
... d vacation pay to pub-

Once GM and Ford raised the same arguments against the fringe benefits that spokesmen on the fringe of the auto industry are now hurling against the Guaranteed Annual Wage. Pensions, for example, were supposed to stagnate the economy. They even used to claim that unemployment compensation was just plain bad. And why should a company pay any part of a worker's health insurance?

Solidarity in the ranks changed that. The most powerful argument behind all the fringe gains was that tens of thousands of UAW-CIO members believed so strongly in them that they were willing to fight for them.

Naturally, the UAW-CIO is pleased at the about face. The Union hopes that Ford and GM are so sincere when they say that the Union-won gains are good . . . that they'll make them even better.

Why in a couple of years GM and Ford will probably even run ads boasting that they are great places to

work because workers don't have to worry about the industry having any annual layoffs.

## SOLIDARITY WRITES HISTORY

Solidarity in the ranks will help write those statements, too.

The copy on the future advertisements likely won't mention the old seasonal layoff pattern. The auto industry isn't likely to point out how even recently it recruited workers in the South only to dump them on the streets after a few short months of rush production.

But the lions of auto just might say that they're proud of the fact that their workers can plan ahead knowing that the income is secure; can make plans for the kids which is the finest way to make a better America.

★ ★ ★

When the Guaranteed Annual Wage is nailed down, we really hope the industry's proud of it, too.

**THE FORD NEWS**  
April, 1955  
Page 3

### YOUR UNSEEN "EXTRA PAYCHECK"

## Fringe Benefits Add to Your Income

**"EXTRA" PAY CHECK**  
U. S. A.  
PAY \$97,000,000  
TO THE ORDER OF: FORD EMPLOYEES  
ANY BANK

Ford Motor Company wrote 97 million dollars worth of "extra paychecks" for hourly employees alone in 1954. Ford hourly employees received these "extra paychecks" at an average rate of 36 cents an hour, or \$736 a year. For every six dollars received from the Company in "extra paychecks," another dollar was received from the Company in "fringe benefits." These are three ways of saying the same thing: Your Company provides job "extras," or fringe benefits, which put additional dollars in your pocket because they give you more money for the same amount of work or they supply a benefit you otherwise would have to buy. So when you want to calculate your true hourly rate or your true annual income for 1954 on the average, add 36 cents to your base wages and premium earnings or \$736 to your annual dollar income.

We're talking about benefits like pensions and workmen's compensation, which are paid for entirely by the Company, and which do not cost the employee a penny. We're also talking about benefits like Social Security and group insurances, which are paid partly by the Company and partly by the employee.

Let's take unemployment compensation first, because it's a great deal of money. Since the worker's rate office to receive a check signed by so many people that the compensation by the state. In Ohio, for instance, private unemployment compensation is also paid by the state.

More than 130,000 employees are eligible to participate in the Company Suggestion Plan. In the last three years, we have paid out three million dollars for 36,000 ideas to improve operations and working conditions. In addition to benefits paid by the Company, these are "extra" which the Company and contributing employees use together.

Employee contributions to Social Security are matched by the Company dollar-for-dollar. At present this amounts to two percent of wages up to \$4,200 a year for every employee. In other words, the Company pays up to \$84 a year as its contribution to each employee's Social Security coverage. This is in addition to what it pays for your retirement under the private non-contribution plan.

Ford also provides free life insurance for retirees who retire at or after normal retirement age, have been with the Company at least 10 years and are carrying group life insurance at the time of retirement. The value of these insurance programs is proved by the fact that more than 90 per cent of Ford employees are participating in both the Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the John Hancock programs.

These are the fringe benefits that make up the unseen "extra paycheck" and total, on the average, 36 cents an hour for every hourly employee.

They do not include other employee benefits such as the safety, medical, training and recreation programs.

Our safety program has made the Ford employee safer at work than at home and on the highway. By reducing the causes of accidents to a minimum, we have made our employees relatively free from the discomforts and loss of income caused by work-incurred injuries.

Our extensive training programs gives employees the opportunity to qualify for better jobs and increase their earning power.

The Ford recreation program sponsors family events like parties and children's day and provides facilities for a variety of athletic activities. Attendance at recreation sponsored events has reached an all-time high of 600 individual parties.

These job extras in a pay envelope big and tangible hourly labor. A Ford car, for instance, they get to a high street an employee must add hidden extra amount to each year's earnings. This means that the Company pays out a substantial amount to its employees.

... The Company's non-contributory retirement plan was the first major program of its kind in the automotive industry and benefits many thousands of Ford employees.

JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT WE GET BY STICKING TOGETHER

**STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**  
**COMPANY FULL**

**FIRST NON-CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT PLAN IN INDUSTRY**

**PAID VACATIONS**

**BLUE CROSS - BLUE SHIELD... COMPANY PAYS ONE-HALF!**

**INSURANCE... SUBSTANTIAL**



**ODDS 'N ENDS**  
by Ruby McDonald

There ain't nobody quite so talkative as the feller who ain't got nothin' to say.  
—McDonald's Almanac.

I had an old maid aunt, once, who said that gentlemen never fib in a pinch, they just sorta walk all around the truth. Which, for some reason, reminds me of the love letter put out a little while ago by the Ford Motor Company in answer to guaranteed wage demands.

According to Mister Ford, our cup runneth over with the nectar of unemployment compensation, Social Security, pension plans 'n insurance benefits, all of which, he said, we wouldn't have if it wasn't for the Company's big heart which throbs tenderly for sufferin' humanity.

Being a gentleman of the best old schools, Mister Ford probably wasn't outright fibbin' but he sure took some whoppin' detours.

**BOTTOM DOLLARS**

He kinda forgot to mention that his Company, along with the others, fought like a TV cowboy to keep these things from going through.

That's what you call bogus reporting and it ain't the first time Ford's been wrong. Back when the National Labor Relations Act was passed, his grandpappy said, "We will never recognize the UAW or any other union."

Mebbe they don't recognize 'em but they sure have bowed in passing a good many times since then.

Mister Ford said his Company was bustin' out all over with these "fringe" benefits, so I asked Uncle Eightball what he thought about it. He said he didn't know much about high finance, but he did know that a fringe was a

bunch of strings hung on the edge of somethin' to make it look purty.

He added that as far as he could see, t'was the Union that had knitted the shawl, and the fringes wouldn't keep nobody warm without it.

**ANOTHER DOG STORY**

As for me, I keep thinking about a story in "the Nation" which quoted Lemuel Boulware, General Electric's Labor Relations head, as saying that "Labor couldn't be barking up an empty tree."

This is the second time us factory homo saps have been called kennel tenants and cousin Lem forgets that a good dog can smell out facts as well as 'possum. Like knowing that during the recession years of 1937-41, the corporations could have provided about 95 per cent of the full-time earnings of all their laid-off employees at a relatively small cost.

If they could do it then, they can do it now.

We're barking up a tree, alright, but there's something up there except leaves. Otherwise it wouldn't be shakin' so.



IT'S SPRING and this young Chrysler worker's fancy turns to thoughts of the Guaranteed Annual Wage. He and two pretty fellow workers go over the UAW's question and answer book on the GAW during lunch period outside the Dodge Main plant in Detroit.

# Big Oil Lobby Turns on Steam To Make Your Gas Bill Bigger

**WASHINGTON**—With a \$1½ million war chest as "initial cost," oil companies are carrying on a nationwide propaganda campaign to try to drive the Harris Natural Gas Bill through Congress.

The Harris Bill is the Kerr Bill with a kicker in it. The Kerr Bill, passed by Congress and vetoed by Harry Truman, was designed as a bonanza bill for gas producers. The Harris Bill adds a bonanza for pipeline companies that own gas fields.

Joe Childs, vice-president of the Rubber Workers, testifying for CIO, told the house Interstate Commerce Committee that this bill in a few years would add \$800 million to the annual gas bills of 19 million consumers in 41 states. This sum, he said, would be on top of the \$400 millions that soaring gas prices have already added to the yearly cost of gas during the last five years.

**\$30 BILLION STAKE**

A million and a half is a lot of money to spend to lobby one bill through Congress. But the rise in natural gas prices that's in sight if the bill passes would increase the value of present known natural gas reserves by \$30 billion.

The \$1½ million is being spent to persuade consumers to do the oil companies' job for them. Newspaper ads, personal visits with editors to get slanted stories and favorable editorials, direct mailing of scare materials to gas consumers—these are ammunition in the biggest legislative push in a long time.

The "gimmick" by which the

oil companies hope to get consumers to hike their own gas bills is to sing them a song reminiscent of "Baby, it's Cold Outside."

They tell consumers that if prices at the gas fields are regulated the thousands of little wildcatters who prospect for gas won't have an incentive to find new fields; the supply will run out; consumers will be stuck with gas burners but no gas.

This is a fake from start to finish.

**GAS A BY-PRODUCT**

Most of the new gas fields are discovered and developed not by the little wildcatters, but by the big oil companies.

Besides, they're not looking for gas primarily, they're looking for oil. They will still look for oil, even if gas prices are regulated.

Seven big companies, including Standard Oil, Phillips, Magnolia, Shell, Gulf, sell one-third of all the natural gas that goes to interstate pipelines.

Out of more than 4,000 gas producers, fewer than 200 companies sell more than 90 per cent of all the gas.

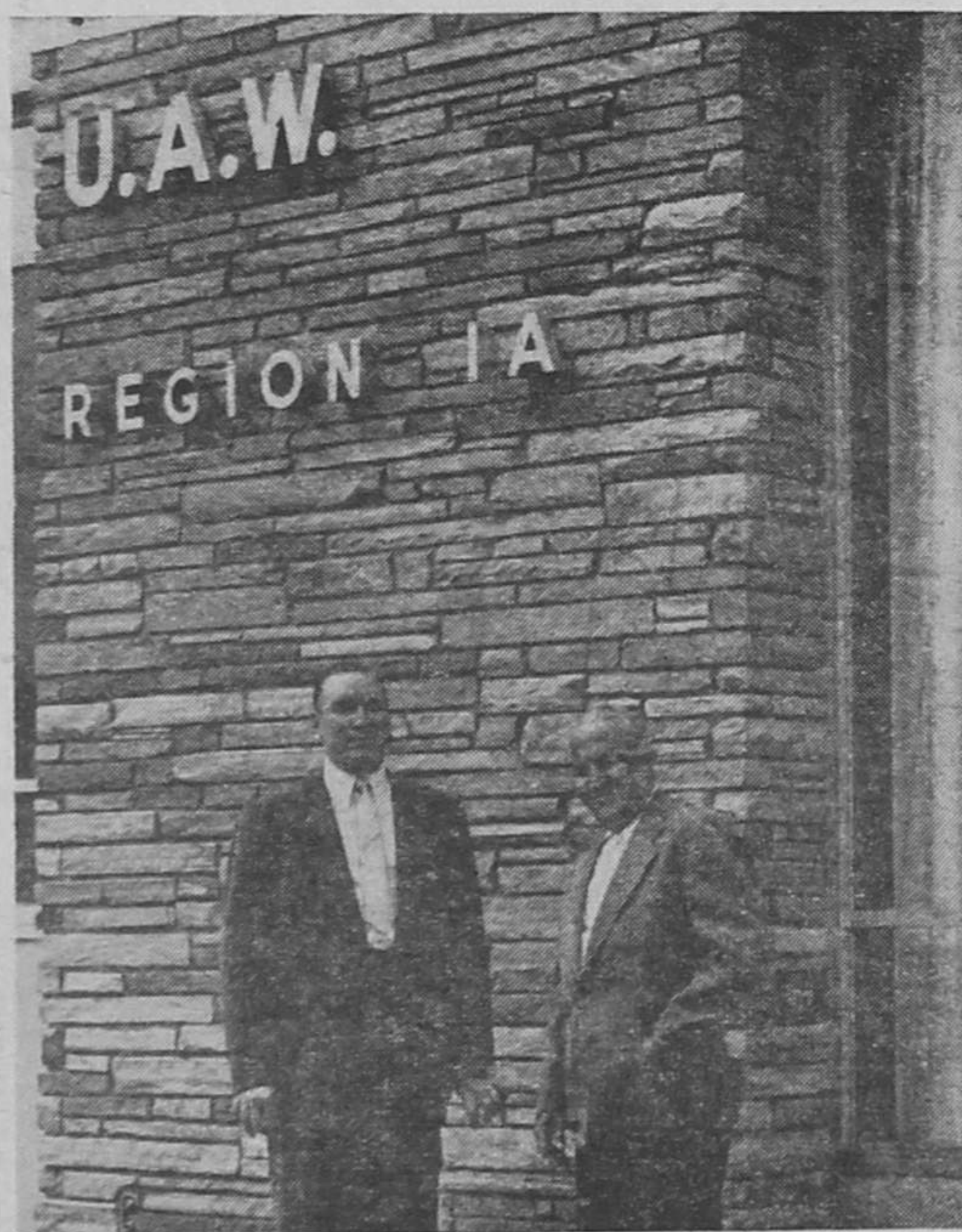
Hiding behind the large number of little producers, the big oil companies are trying to tell consumers that competition will take care of the price.

It's "taking care" of it, that's for sure. The pipelines need gas so badly, and the control of the gas supply is so tight, "competition"—if you call it that—has been pushing prices up rapidly.

**GAS COSTS TRIPLED**

For example, top prices paid in Texas fields in 1947 were around four cents per thousand cubic feet. By 1954, pipelines had to pay top prices of more than 12½ cents to get gas. One pipeline has contracted to pay 20 cents now, and 24 cents in the future, for gas from a Louisiana field.

If Congress kills regulation of gas prices, the industry has made clear many times that they want to make it cost the consumer as much as coal to heat his house with.



REGION 1A's co-directors, Joseph McCusker, left, and Edward Cote, stand proudly in front of the Region's new headquarters. It is one of the most beautiful and most functional structures in Detroit. Workers poured in from all parts of Michigan for the dedication ceremonies this month.

**Bye, Bye, Bathtub Ring**

**PITTSBURGH (PAI)**—Labor may be concerned about the impact of automation and technological change, but here is one labor-saving device which no one can resist. Dr. H. B. Hass, president of the Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., says detergents which will eliminate the bathtub ring will be on the market this summer. They're called "Sucrose Monofatty Acid Eaters."

**Foundry Conference**

The Foundry Council Executive Board, at its recent meeting, unanimously voted to hold its 10th Annual Foundry Wage and Hour Council Conference at Chicago, in the Congress Hotel, on August 19, 20 and 21, 1955.

Top topics on the agenda are complete discussions on Shell Molding and Automation in the foundry industry.



"I was so underpaid on my last job that I was fired for three weeks before I knew it!"

**120,000 Still Seek Jobs in Michigan**

The second quarter of the year is usually the high-water mark for employment in the state. The latest report from the Michigan Employment Security Commission shows that Michigan is entered in that period of high employment with 120,000 workers still out of jobs.

Another disturbing figure is the number of exhaustions of unemployment compensation benefits which have taken place during the first three months of the year. Exhaustions totalled 22,093 during the three months, running slightly higher than 7,000 in March.

**Allis-Chalmers Finds It Can't Win**

**EAST GADSDEN, Alabama**—More than \$10,000 in back pay has been awarded to 86 members of UAW-CIO Local 487 by an impartial referee's decision, thus penalizing the management of the Allis-Chalmers' Gadsden Works which had tried to duck seniority provisions of the contract.

About two years ago, the Company demoted a group of time-study foremen during a period of layoffs and claimed they had seniority. They put them in the production unit displacing regular workers with high seniority.

The Local protested that the ex-foremen had no seniority and that the Company's action was a contract violation. An impartial referee agreed, and so ruled in a decision made in September, 1953.

The Company appealed, but in vain. Last month, another referee upheld the original decision.

This is the second time in recent weeks that A-C has been ordered to make back payments. Last month, *The United Automobile Worker* reported that Louis De Laura, a worker at the West Allis, Wisconsin, plant, was reinstated with \$3,400 in back pay.



# U. S. Bungles Polio Protection; Reuther Urges Quick Controls

Distribution of the Salk protection against polio was virtually paralyzed as this issue of *The United Automobile Worker* went to press. One of the biggest medical discoveries of the age has been followed by one of the worst public health bungles of all time. As the result, some children may not get the Salk vaccine in time.

UAW President Walter Reuther and many other civic-minded citizens early demanded that federal controls be placed over the Salk distribution.

At mid-month, Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby's Department of Health, Welfare and Education still had failed to act on the distribution problem, but committees in both the House and Senate were investigating. In identical telegrams to both committees, Reuther renewed his demand for federal control of the vaccine.

He wired, "A month has gone by since the favorable report on Salk polio vaccine, and Secretary Hobby has not yet come up with a program for making it available to children on a fair and equitable basis."

## IRRESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Reuther added, "Mrs. Hobby has done nothing to assure parents that their children will get inoculations in order of greatest need and without regard to their ability to pay. In light of these developments, Congress should step in and insist that effective safeguards be set up."

Mrs. Hobby, in passing on her responsibility to the 48 state governors, denied that a black market exists, Reuther pointed out. She asked for no funds to make sure that children get the vaccine and no power to punish black marketeers.

Reuther called this "a disgraceful demonstration of inept and irresponsible government."

## CANADIANS HAVE PLAN

He called upon Congress to establish a single national plan "to finance the purchase and distribution of the vaccine to the extent necessary to make certain that no child shall be denied inoculation because his parents cannot afford it."

Reuther pointed out that Canada prepared Salk control plans last year and put them into effect April 12, the day the Salk report was made public. Canadian and provincial governments are paying for the entire cost of the vaccine. It is being used first on children in the age groups needing it most.

By contrast, in America, the Salk discovery was promoted in the same way you'd

## Just How Much?

Sure indication that Salk vaccine is not being distributed on the basis of need is the mounting evidence that some doctors are encouraging patients to get shots regardless of whether they are in the age groups most likely to get polio.

Prices vary. Enough vaccine for the series of three shots costs approximately \$3.60.

Some doctors reportedly have been charging as much as \$10 a shot.

promote a new gadget to get maximum sales.

## SUPER SALK SALESMEN

Obviously the drug companies knew that the Salk was a success. Drug companies placed carefully-prepared ads in newspapers the same day the announcement was made. One even entertained doctors with a closed-circuit TV showing of the dramatic announcement at Ann Arbor.

For weeks, newspapers built up the public demand for the Salk. The favored drug firms produced hundreds of gallons of it. The announcement was planned as carefully as a Hollywood premier.

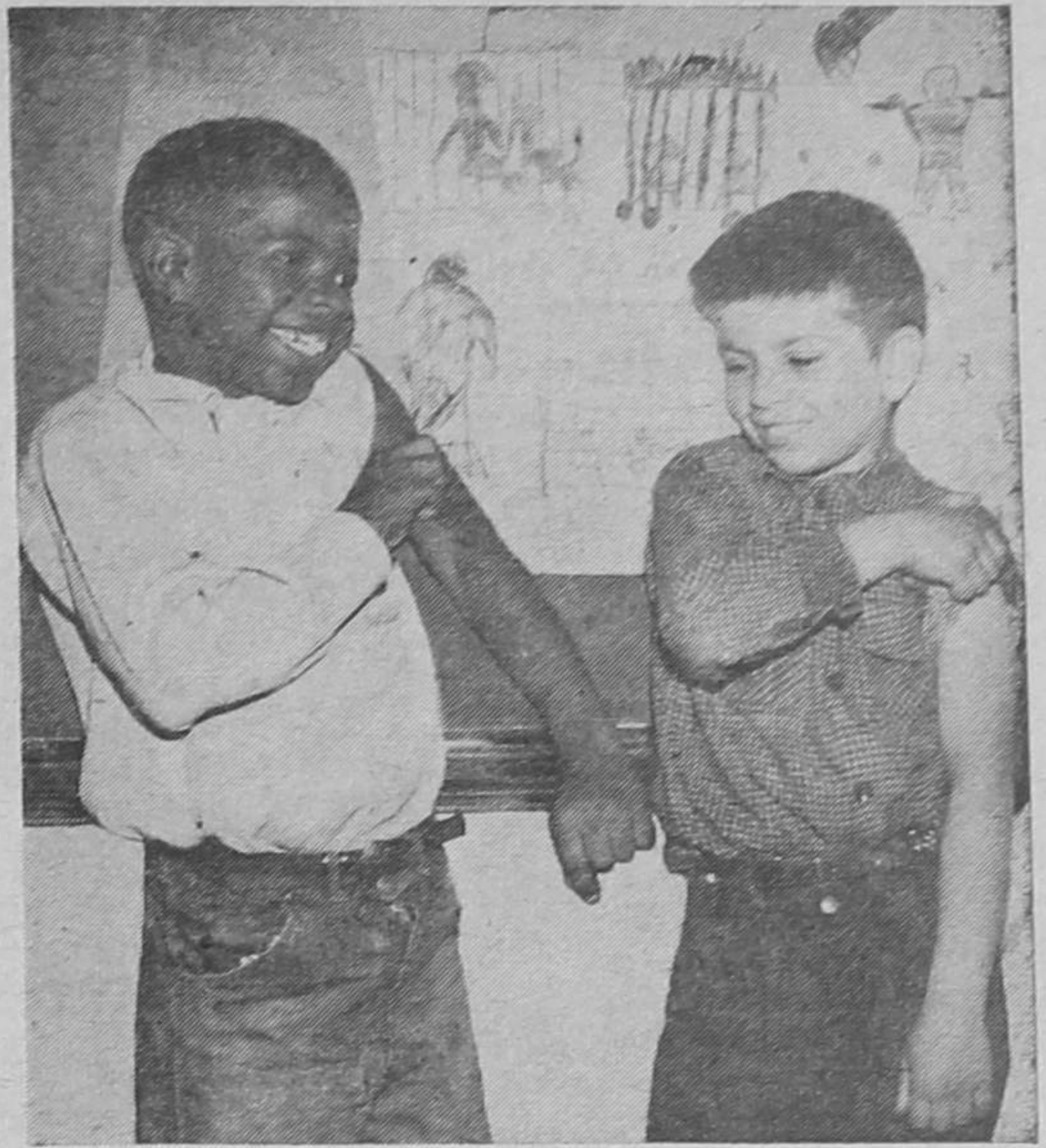
Apparently there was no serious planning on how to distribute it or even on how to test it.

After a fatality, the entire output of the Cutter laboratory in California was held up, and now there is a temporary embargo on all the vaccine.

On May 3, a UAW-CIO representative in Washington talked with the top tester by phone to find out whether the first batches produced by any of the six vaccine manufacturers was subjected to government test before being released to the public. (That was the practice last year on the field trials). The answer was no, not if the manufacturer was an established producer of similar products.



REAL SALK HEROES are these Rhesus monkeys from India. To produce Salk drug takes their kidneys.



WE'VE HAD IT these two second graders report. They were among the thousands who received the Salk in public school vaccinations before the government bungle forced suspension of the polio protection.

## Salk Sales Mean Millions To Nation's Drug Industry

The *New York Post* on May 2 quoted from a private news-letter issued by a Wall Street brokerage house predicting that the six manufacturers would make commercial sales of Salk vaccine this year in the amount of \$60 million. Their profit before taxes, it said, would be \$20 million.

Allied Laboratories, one of the six, will probably raise its dividend this year from \$3.25 a share to \$5.50 a share, the news-letter said.

The *New York Times* on May 8 reports that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis spent \$18 million on the research that led to the discovery of Salk vaccine. It spent another \$7½ million on the field tests last year.

So many doctors have gone alone with commercializing the Salk that reports of black-market operations have come in from many parts of the country. A common practice has been to place a big drug order—including one for Salk—with the implication being "No Salk, no sale."

Parke, Davis even tried to use the public frenzy over Salk as an excuse to force workers to accept an inferior contract. It finally retreated only after UAW President Walter Reuther revealed that it was Parke, Davis and not the Chemical Workers unions which was unwilling to extend the contract.

There was a grave suspicion in many minds that the drug industry was more interested in profits than in polio protection.

## Hobby's Private Interests Lobby Decides Against Vaccine Controls

Two key questions on Salk vaccine still haven't been answered: "Who will get it first?" and "How will they pay for it?"

Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, secretary of Health, Welfare and Education, knew months ago that a favorable Salk report would give rise to a terrific demand which would exceed the available supply for many months. Plans should have been drawn up long before the April 12 report that the Salk did the trick.

Ten days later, Mrs. Hobby brought together doctors, vaccine manufacturers, and the wholesale and retail drug trades and turned the problem over to them.

No one who could speak for parents or children was admitted to this exclusive Hobby lobby which met for 3½ hours behind closed doors and came up with a pre-arranged plan that was no plan.

### What does it propose?

As for priorities in administering the vaccine—the standard Republican answer—leave it to the states.

As for controls, none at all—it's a voluntary program.

As for cost of the vaccine, leave that to the people who make and sell it, and the doctors.

As for money to make sure all children can get it—not one word was said about that in the closed-door session.

On April 27 however, Mrs. Hobby put on the act of consulting the public. Representatives of 50 public groups were called together to be told what plans had been decided on. Eight long prepared statements were read to them.

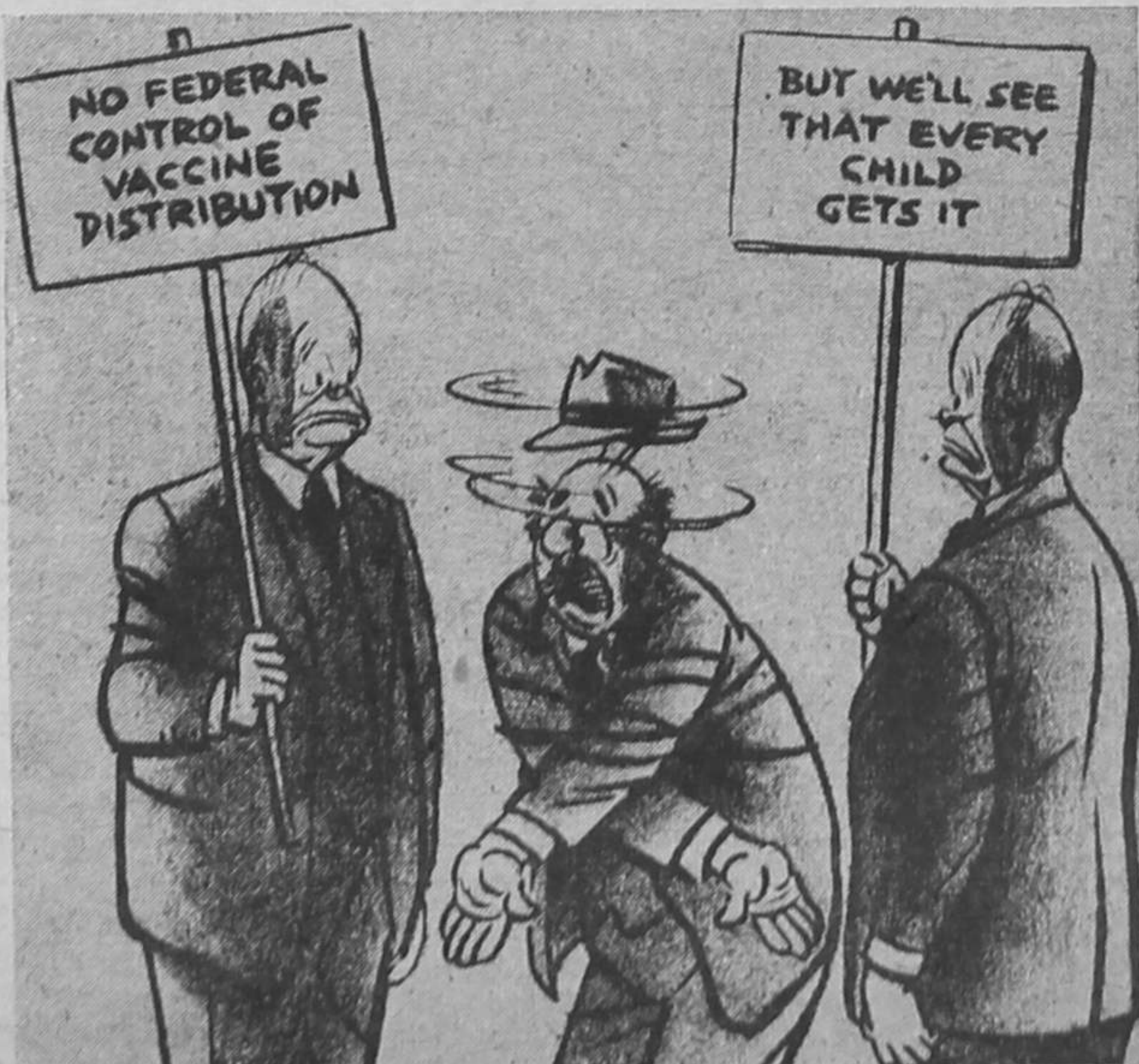
By mid-afternoon they got a chance to say something. They said plenty. There was unanimous protest against reliance on voluntary action, against refusal of the government to state firm

priorities by age groups, and against the Department's statement that no federal funds were needed to help all children get inoculations.

But this was lung exercise. They weren't brought in to change anything. On May 2, Mrs. Hobby convened a National Advisory Committee, of which two out of 13 members were selected as public representatives. They were sworn to secrecy. No report has been made on this meeting, but it is known that it endorsed the "voluntary" plan and did not recommend any controls or appropriations.

On the same day, however, the rock-bottom Republican *New York Herald-Tribune* ran a front-page editorial demanding government controls and sent wires to every member of Congress. Congress woke up. Bills were thrown in, Republican Senator Ives grabbing the lead in the Senate. On May 6, the House Banking Committee quizzed Surgeon General Scheele on control legislation.

Meanwhile, the President had made a speech about polio vaccine at his May 4 press conference. It went so many ways at once, the White House had to issue a statement later in the day to say what he had said. Even the pro-Eisenhower *Washington Post* called it "a miracle of confusion."



**And Back Pay, Too****Harvester Changes Its Old Tune, To Settle Grievances by the Score**

Unity of nearly all International Harvester workers under the banner of the UAW-CIO is beginning to pay off already. Last month, the anti-union I-H management, in a complete about-face, sat down with a top UAW committee and worked out an agreement which will not only clear up thousands of unresolved grievances, but will also:

- 1 Bring substantial amounts of back pay to I-H workers—
- 2 Call for continued meetings with local plant managers to iron out grievances on that level—
- 3 Extend and consolidate all parts of the current contract to August 23—
- 4 Provide for retroactive payments to retired workers of a sum equal to the recent increase in federal Social Security payments—
- 5 Preserve the Union's right to negotiate for a higher pension when actual contract talks commence.

The agreement with I-H was announced by UAW-CIO Vice-President Leonard Woodcock, and was negotiated by a committee headed by Ray Berndt, director of Region 3, and including Ray Ross, director of Region 2A, Pat Greathouse, director of Region 4, Vice-President Woodcock and Ray Shetterly, assistant director of the UAW's International Harvester Department.

**THOUSANDS OF GRIEVANCES**

This committee, which met with a top management group, had insisted on the talks because of the thousands of unsettled grievances in I-H plants, mostly revolving around disputes over the setting of piecework prices and production standards.

Management had been taking the high-handed attitude that it could change a price practically at will and had used such flimsy excuses as the changing of a parts number or paint to set a new price, although no actual change in work was involved.

As a result of the meeting, a new pro-

cedure has been set up, with management agreeing to the following stipulations:

- Set up a new procedure to determine production standards and piecework prices—
- Prices will not be changed unless there is an actual change in the nature of the work performed.
- Even then, if there is a comparable operation in existence in the same department, the price will be patterned after that operation.
- Where an operation is changed but portions of it remain unchanged, the money values of the unchanged portions will be left unchanged.
- Where an operation is completely changed, management will be guided by prices on similar existing operations.
- Where a completely new standard is necessary for a new job, the Company will consider Union arguments and evidence on all factors that make up a production standard, including the leveling factor. This includes consideration of the opinions of all principals in the dispute—such as the worker involved, his steward, shop committeeman and foreman—and consideration of the leveling factor on similar operations.

**WORKING ON SETTLEMENTS**

To implement this top level understanding, W. J. Reilly, I-H manager of labor relations, and Brother Shetterly are meeting with local plant managers and shop committees to help settle unresolved grievances on the plant level.

After such meetings, local managers and shop committees are expected to follow through and make final grievance settlements.

Vice-President Woodcock emphasized that the Union will not begin talks on a new contract until all outstanding grievances are settled.

These unresolved grievances will be settled by a formula now being worked out by the Company and the Union. This formula is expected to result in substantial payments to I-H workers.



LITTLE LYNN NASS, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, hugs her new shoes. She is the daughter of Norbert Nass, a member of Kohler Local 833, which has been on strike against the feudalistic plumbing-ware firm for more than 13 months. The shoes were paid for by Ford Local 600, which donated generously to buy new shoes for strikers' children.

**Kohler's Key Spokesman Threatens 'Another 1934'**

SHEBOYGAN, Wisconsin—Lyman C. Conger, chief negotiator for the struck Kohler Company, rattled the skeleton in the firm's closet this month. Conger said it wouldn't grieve him to see Local 833, UAW-CIO, broken in a repetition of what happened in 1934.

That year, Kohler's private army used tear gas and guns on strikers, killing two and wounding 48.

**REMEMBER THOSE BULLETS**

Kohler workers, angered at the threat, are intensifying their efforts to make Kohler lose customers through a primary boycott. They want the trickle of scab-made products stopped for lack of sales.

The Company, frustrated in its efforts to break the strike (ranks are intact after 13 months), apparently is resorting to the Big Threat.

An Associated Press dispatch May 6 quoted officials of the Kohler Company as saying "frankly they would not grieve to see Local 833 . . . broken in the struggle." The story quoted Conger directly as saying: ". . . if anyone would like to speculate on the basis of what happened here after the 1934 strike they are at liberty to do so."

**IAM SUPPORTS STRIKE**

Part of the primary boycott program calls for teams of speakers from Kohler striking Local 833 to visit union meetings and explain the strike and ask support of the boycott. Public appeals are carrying the boycott campaign to a wide audience.

Another development in the 13th month of the Kohler strike: An AFL Machinists Union motorcade brought proceeds of a food and cash drive from its 14 Milwaukee locals—including enough food to furnish the strike kitchen with most of its needs for six weeks.

**Buying Power**

One and a half million UAW members represent more than three million adults. They in turn can reach millions more with the Kohler workers' message.

Tell your friends about it, your relatives. When buying a home, insist on some other brand of plumbing fixtures. UAW members, their families and friends have a lot of buying (or not buying) power. Enough perhaps to win a strike.

**Three UAW Leaders Get Blue Cross Posts**

UAW-CIO Vice-President Leonard Woodcock and Al Barbour, secretary-treasurer of the Wayne County, Michigan, CIO Council, have been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Hospital Service (Blue Cross) as public representatives.

Larry Gettlinger, administrative assistant to UAW President Walter P. Reuther, has been named to the executive committee of the Board of Trustees. He has been on the Board for two years.

**4000 Years of Open Shop**

ELAT, Israel — Once upon a time, King Solomon's slaves toiled here, digging copper out of the Wadi Aravah mine. Today, the workers in King Solomon's Copper Mines are strictly union. They were recently organized by Histadrut, the Israeli labor federation.

**Harvester OK's Better Pension; One Expiration Date**

The current contract with International Harvester expires August 23. The pension agreement runs out June 1, and some insurance provisions do not expire until after the contract termination date. This month both sides agreed to consolidate all parts of the contract and to make August 23 the termination date for all provisions.

In agreeing to extend the pension agreement, the Union insisted that the Company make retroactive payments to retired workers, so that they could get the benefits of the higher Social Security pensions now in effect. Under the expiring contract, there had been a \$100 ceiling, and higher federal payments were benefitting the Company rather than the workers.

The Union also reserved the right to bargain for a higher pension later.

**17,000 at Harvester Complete Swing to UAW**

**BULLETIN**—International Harvester Workers have just given the UAW-CIO one of the biggest endorsements in recent NLRB election history. In elections held in 12 former FE locals and 15 units, they backed the UAW-CIO by 80 per cent. The UAW won all 15 elections by a wide margin except for a 13-man craft unit. The combined vote of other unions of the various ballots was only 239.

Involved are 17,000 workers formerly represented by FE-UE. The 12 FE locals voted unanimously last March to disaffiliate from the independent, Communist-dominated UE and to join UAW-CIO, thus putting UE's Farm Equipment division out of existence.

UAW Vice-President Leonard Woodcock said that after UAW wins these elections, the Union will be bargaining for 95 per cent of all I-H production and maintenance workers, as well as for many office and technical employees.



"Gentlemen, our employees have requested a five-cent raise. All those in favor say 'No!'"

**Urban League Grant**

NEW YORK (PAI)—The Philip Murray Memorial Foundation has presented a \$7,500 grant to the National Urban League.

## \$2 Million Back Jobless Pay Awarded Michigan Workers

Visiting Circuit Judge Raymond L. Smith handed down a precedent-making decision in Detroit which found that thousands of Michigan workers are entitled to collect almost \$2 million covering up to six weeks of unemployment compensation benefits denied these workers for layoffs suffered during the 1954 summer.

The ruling by the Holland (Mich.) jurist came on a test case involving claimant Mary E. Melia, and found all workers who were laid off at the time—not just those who were drawing benefits when the new changes went into effect on June 27, 1954—entitled to the improved unemployment compensation coverage.

### HAD EXHAUSTED BENEFITS

The Melia test case—similar to that of many others—involved the exhaustion of 20 weeks' benefits by the defendant on May 8, 1954. When the benefits under the new law went into effect on June 27, she filed for six additional weeks of unemployment compensation on the basis that she was entitled to come under the new law inasmuch as her benefit year did not end until September 24, 1954.

Her case was handled by Attorney A. L. Zwerdling, who handles many union cases, including compensation and other matters. He hailed the Smith ruling as being in line with the intent of the amended law, which was meant to provide immediate relief for 57,000 workers who were unemployed at the time and had exhausted their benefits.

### \$2 MILLION BENEFITS

Zwerdling declared that the ruling will mean payment of almost \$2 million in additional benefits which had been denied to the affected workers by the ruling of the Michigan Attorney General, Republican Frank Millard, and the subsequent rejection of claims by the MESC Appeal Board.

Both the Michigan CIO Council and the UAW-CIO had challenged these rulings, contending that those workers who still had unexpired benefit years were entitled to the additional benefits.

### King-Size Grievance

LONDON, England — The "divine right" of British monarchs doesn't extend to union grievance procedures, Queen Elizabeth found out, when a Buckingham Palace servant protested about her change of quarters to the Civil Service Union, of which she is a member.

The servant, Polly Stewart, has been a Palace charwoman for six years, living in a small room overlooking the garden. Recently, she was told to change rooms, and when she protested, she was threatened with discharge.

Mrs. Stewart appealed to her union, which took up her grievance with the Ministry of Labour. The Ministry says it's looking into the case.



UAW-CIO MEMBERS from Local 153 at the Bendix Plant in Teterboro, N. J., find out about the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) during a visit to the UN under auspices of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Listening to pretty UN guide are, left to right, Lee Brostowsky, Cy Dolce, Ida Teufel, John Teufel, George Downs, John Brostowsky.

### Lines of Communication



"The Boss wants to see ya."

## GOP Offers Peanut Amendment To Maintain Wages at That Level

WASHINGTON—Assistant House Minority Leader Halleck's (R., Ind.) neat scheme to use peanuts to kill both 90 per cent farm price supports and an increase in the federal minimum wage blew up in the Republicans' faces this month when the House voted, 206 to 201, to restore price supports for the five basic farm crops at 90 per cent of parity, instead of present law permitting prices on the 1955 crops to be "flexed" downward as far as 82½ per cent of parity.

The five basic crops are defined as wheat, corn, cotton, rice and peanuts.

### DIVIDE AND CONQUER

As Speaker Rayburn pointed out just before the vote, the Republican strategy was to (a) split the farm forces backing the 90 per cent bill and (b) split off city Democrats.

This was to be done by a floor amendment knocking peanuts out of the bill. Such an amendment was planted through the candy manufacturers' lobby helped by some city Democrats. On a teller (test) vote in the House Committee of the Whole, it carried 186 to 150.

Had this amendment carried in regular session, it would have defeated the whole price support

bill by insuring the loss of support by Representatives from peanut growing districts. It also would have provided propaganda that Representatives from city districts had walked out on both the peanut growers and all other growers of basic crops by joining up with Republicans to split and defeat the 90 per cent price support bill.

Republican strategists believed that by claiming that city Democrats had killed the 90 per cent farm price support bill, they could line up enough votes from farmer-supporting Congressmen to either beat an increase in the minimum wage or at least hold it down to the 90 cents recommended by the White House.

Overnight the Democratic leadership marshalled Democratic members. Result: The 186 to 150 vote of May 4 knocking peanuts out of the bill was reversed on May 5. By a roll-call vote of 215 to 193, peanuts were put back in the bill.

A motion to recommit the bill was beaten by a vote of 212 to 199.

Then the 90 per cent price support bill itself was passed, 206 to 201.

That left the decks clear for favorable action on the \$1.25 minimum wage.

### Death Takes Local 1021 Officer

HAWTHORNE, California—Wayne Bungard, chairman of UAW-CIO Local 1021's Bargaining Committee, and a former president of the Local, passed away last month.

## Just What Is a Fair Wage?

WASHINGTON—Two of the hottest questions facing Congress are: "How much is a decent wage?" and "How many people are entitled to a decent living?"

The minimum wage debate boils down to that.

The present minimum wage is 75 cents. Only about half of the nation's workers are covered by the federal law. The people who need the protection the most, factory farm workers, most clerks, don't have it.

Both the Administration and labor agree that the present wage is too low.

Labor, headed by UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther and AFL President George Meany, is demanding that the wage minimum be raised to "at least \$1.25 an hour."

"It is morally right," Reuther told a Senate Labor Subcommittee. "There is no excuse for the payment of sweatshop wages in an era of atomic energy and automation. It is economically sound because an expanding economy requires an ever-rising consumer income to match our ever-rising productive power."

Labor Secretary James Mitchell, on the other hand, is defending the White House recommendation of 90 cents. That's a decent wage in the White House view, he indicated. That works out to \$36 for a 40-hour week, and Administra-

tion spokesmen avoided trying to explain how families could get along on that.

The question was asked all over Capitol Hill by 600 members of the CIO Retail-Wholesale Union. They came here to help press the fight for a \$1.25 minimum. While most members of the Union make \$1.25 an hour or more, most retail workers are not covered by the present law, and among the unorganized wages are pitifully low.

Joseph Beirne, president of the Communication Workers-CIO, presented an operator at an independent telephone company to the Senate subcommittee where most of the attention was focused. This woman, a veteran employe, makes 63 cents an hour. Beirne urged that telephone workers in companies not engaged in interstate commerce be included in the act.

Secretary Mitchell, whose job was to try to sell the White House view, asked that only an additional two million workers be brought under the protection of the U. S. Fair Labor Standards Act, most of them clerks in chain stores engaged in interstate commerce.

UAW President Reuther called that "Little more than a face-saving gesture. . ." He pointed out that months earlier Mitchell told a CIO Convention that there was a gap of 18 million workers who needed minimum wage coverage.

The National Association of Manufacturers, Chamber of Commerce and similar groups were claiming that the 90-cent proposal "went too far" as *The Auto Worker* went to press.

Many senators and representatives, some doubtless thinking of '56, had minimum wage bills in the hopper. The debate may continue for several weeks.

Labor spokesmen had at least two indications they were making some headway. Two key Republican senators on the Labor Committee—Ives (N. Y.) and Purtell (Conn.)—already are on the record that they think a 90-cent minimum is too low.

## City Congressmen Help Farmers

WASHINGTON—Seventy city Democrats voted for 90 per cent farm price supports; no city Republican voted for them.

Only 17 city Democrats voted against the 90 per cent figure; 33 voted against it last year.

This year 185 Democrats voted FOR the bill, only 29 AGAINST it. And 172 Republicans voted AGAINST the bill, only 21 FOR it.

The 21 Republicans who voted FOR the bill this year are all from farm districts.

Despite rabid smear attempts by Representative Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) and others to picture CIO President Walter P. Reuther as a sinister ally of the 90 per cent bill's backers, Secretary Benson's long campaign to set city consumers against firm price supports and then to play farmers against city workers had fallen flat on its face.

# GOP Starts Drive to End Workers' Voice in Politics

The NAM-inspired, GOP-sparked drive to enact anti-labor laws on the state level brought the labor haters one success and several failures during the past few weeks.

Aside from continued attempts to pass "right-to-seab" laws, which would outlaw the union shop and similar union security clauses, the Republicans and their Big Business friends are now concentrating on a campaign to outlaw all political activities on the part of organized labor.

## WISCONSIN SETBACK

So far, this campaign has been successful only in Wisconsin, where the GOP-dominated state legislature passed the infamous Catlin Bill, which prevents unions from contributing to state political campaigns. The bill is now awaiting the signature of Governor Walter Kohler. The GOP governor appears certain to sign it.

The Catlin Bill was denounced by UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther as "a serious blow at free government." He said it deprives union members of their constitutional right to engage in political activity.

A similar bill has been introduced in the Michigan State

Legislature and is now in committee. If passed, a veto is sure.

## OHIO BILL DIES

Leading the fight against the Michigan version of the "right-to-muzzle" bill are State CIO President August Scholle and UAW-CIO Vice-President Leonard Woodcock.

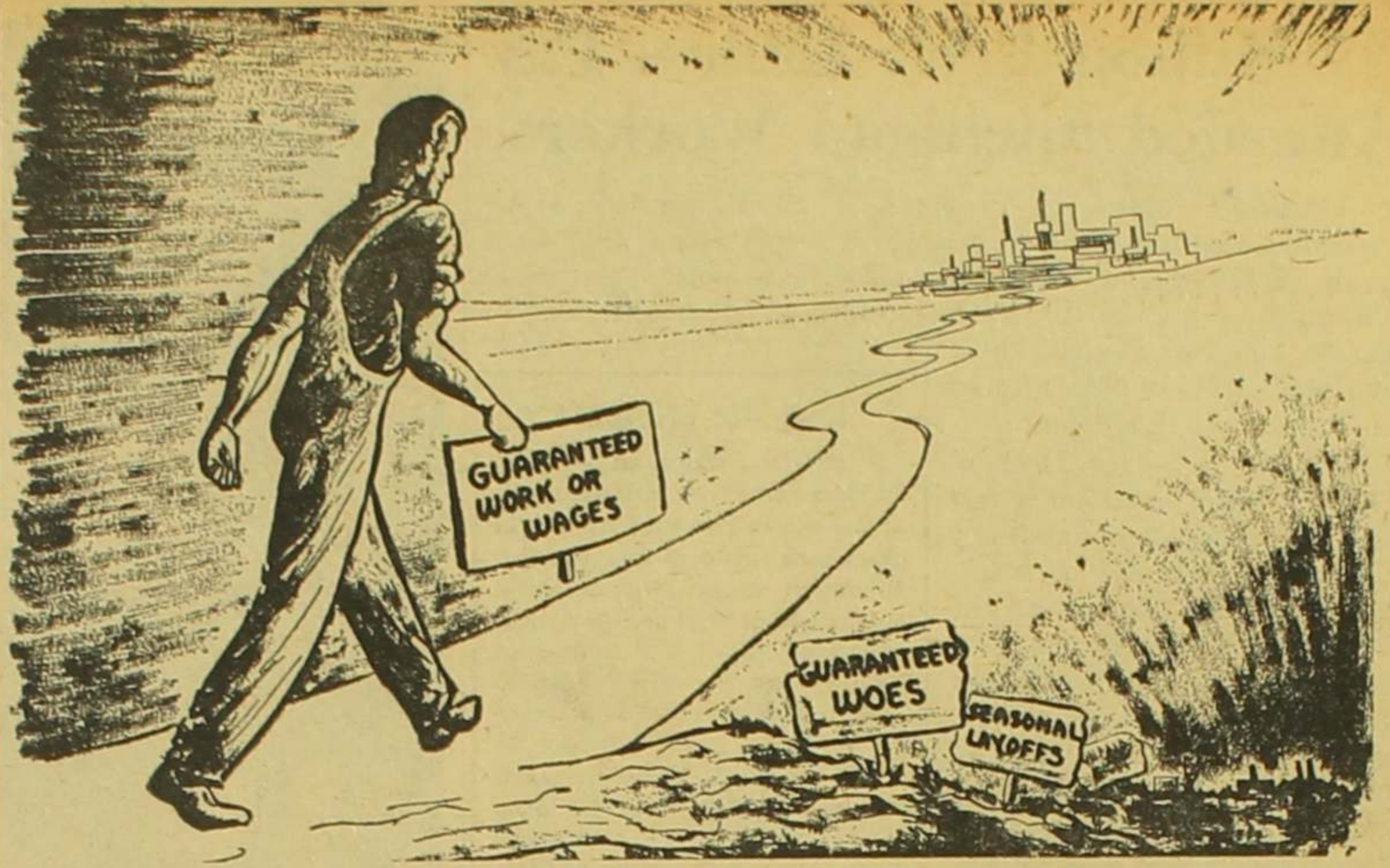
Chief proponent of the bill is John Feikens, GOP state chairman.

In Ohio, a bill which would have gone even further than the Wisconsin and Michigan versions in curtailing union political activities died in committee.

Meanwhile, "right-to-seab" bills introduced in the state legislatures of Michigan, Missouri and Colorado all died in committee.

## Victory in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (PAI)—Oscar Ehrhardt, president of the St. Louis Industrial Union Council, CIO, has been elected a member of the St. Louis Board of Education along with four other labor-endorsed candidates.



## When We Win, Everybody Wins

They may not know it, but official figures show that 6½ million Americans are living better today because the UAW-CIO made the basic fight for pensions.

That's the number who were receiving Social Security benefits according to the most recent count.

As a direct result of the

UAW-CIO's pension victory in 1949, Social Security benefits were increased. That laid the base for the most recent Social Security increase brought about by labor and voter concern.

When UAW members win a basis demand, everybody benefits.

## State CIO Goes to College

NEW BRUNSWICK, New Jersey—This state's entire 72-member State CIO Executive Board went to college. President Paul Krebs reported. The Board held its regular monthly meeting on the campus of Rutgers University here, as guests of the school. The unionists were greeted by University Provost Mason W. Gross, known to TV fans as the quiz expert on the Herb Shriver show, "Two for the Money."



GUY NUNN

# Keep Posted Every Day On UAW's 'Eye Opener'

More than 90 per cent of the UAW's membership can keep posted on negotiations every day on the new 28-station "Eye Opener" radio hook-up.

The half-hour UAW morning show, featuring the UAW-CIO's noted newscaster Guy Nunn, and his partner, Joe Walsh, originates in Solidarity House. It's timed to catch workers going to or coming from the job on the morning shift break.

The "Eye Opener" is a fast-moving show with the best in news, sports, music and information on the Union's current bargaining program.

Radio waves travel far in the early morning, and many workers report they're getting the show on stations they never knew they could tune in clearly.

It's the biggest radio hook-up ever to carry a weekday program sponsored by one union. To get it, check below for the stations nearest you. To avoid confusion between Eastern Central and Daylight Savings Time, we've just listed the hour the show is carried in the various stations on the prevailing time in those cities.

## Here's List of Eye Opener Stations

### Windsor, Ontario CKLW

800 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

(Also hear Guy Nunn on "Labor Views the News" at 7:15 p. m.)



### Atlanta, Georgia WGST

920 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Chicago, Ill. WAIT

820 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

(Covers much of Illinois, southern half of Wisconsin, northern Indiana and southwestern tip of Michigan)

### New York City WINS

1010 on your dial 6 a. m.

(Also covers Connecticut, south edge of Massachusetts, northern New Jersey)



### Los Angeles KFVB

980 on your dial 1:15 a. m. and 6 a. m.

(Two 15-minute shows in the early morning)

### Pittsburgh WPIT

730 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Niagara Falls WHLD

1270 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

(Parts of New York and Ontario)

### St. Louis KXLW

1320 on your dial 6 a. m.



### Kansas City KCMO

810 on your dial 6 a. m.

(Program is carried in two parts: 6 to 6:15 a. m.; 6:30 to 6:45 a. m.)

### Columbus, Ohio WRFD

880 on your dial 6 a. m.

### Cincinnati WSAI

1360 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Louisville, Ky. WGRC

790 on your dial 6 a. m.

### Dallas, Texas KGKO

1480 on your dial 7:15 a. m.

### Anderson, Ind. WHBU

1240 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Indianapolis WFBM

1260 on your dial 6 a. m.

(Program is carried in two parts: 6 to 6:15 a. m.; 6:30 to 6:45 a. m.)

### Evansville, Ind. WJPS

1330 on your dial 6 a. m.

### Kokomo, Ind. WIUO

1350 on your dial 6:15 a. m.



### Muncie, Ind. WLBC

1340 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Fort Wayne, Ind. WKJG

1380 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Bedford, Ind. WBIW

1340 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Pontiac, Mich. WPON

1460 on your dial 1:15 p. m.

### South Bend, Ind. WJVA

1580 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Cadillac, Mich. WATT

1240 on your dial 6:15 a. m.



### Traverse City WTCM

1400 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Gaylord, Mich. WATC

900 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Alpena, Mich. WATZ

1450 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Petoskey, Mich. WMBN

1340 on your dial 6:15 a. m.

### Rogers City, Mich. WHAK

960 on your dial 6:15 a. m.