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The United Automobile Worker
UAW-CIO
INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AIRCRAFT AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA — U.A.W.-C.I.O.

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SMILING UAW VEEP Richard T. Gosser brings down the chairman's gavel for the last time, signalling the close of business for the highly successful Third Annual Skilled Trades Conference of the UAW-CIO held in Cleveland's Hollenden Hotel last month.

Skilled Trades Problems Tackled at Conference

CLEVELAND — More than 800 delegates and staff representatives laid plans to meet collective bargaining problems at the third annual Skilled Trades Conference held here last month.

The conference keynote was struck by UAW Vice President Richard T. Gosser who pointed out that the problems of skilled and production workers are identical on many issues and that each classification needs the support of the other.

SOLVING PROBLEMS

UAW President Walter P. Reuther told the delegates, "No other Union has ever attempted in an industrial union, to give special recognition to skilled trades workers. We in the UAW will continue to give them the special attention they are entitled to . . . Skilled trades and industrial unions are not in conflict—we can have them both."

He pointed out that automatic machinery being introduced in plants raised problems which can be solved only by union action. Automation, he said, can provide abundance for America if it is geared to the needs of the people and not just to the benefit of a selfish few.

For long range security, workers will need solid contract gains such as the Guaranteed Annual Wage so that one group of workers cannot be played off against another.

"We've now got a high-octane jet-propelled production machine," Reuther asserted. "By 1960 our total of all goods and services will have increased from $370 billions to $510 billions."

RESCUE OPERATION

After enumerating the type of a program necessary to maintain the American economy on an even keel, Reuther asserted, "The little men of big business are their own worst enemy. We've got to rescue them, time and again, from their own stupidity."

Chaired by Gosser, director of the UAW Skilled Trades Department, the program included talks by Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey, Regional Directors Norman Matthews and Joseph McCusker of the Skilled Trades Committee, Region 2 Director Patrick J. O'Malley, Education Director Brendan Sexton, Ford Department Director Ken Bannon, Pat Patterson, Assistant General Motors Department director, and William Oliver, co-director of the Fair Practices Department.

Delegates adopted 22 resolutions. Among them:

SKILLED TRADES PROTECTION; Delegates discussed the question of apprenticeship standards, journeymen's cards, new job classifications.

BENEFITS: Adopted were resolutions calling for such benefits as additional paid holidays at triple time; $5 per month per year for retirement; severance pay amounting to five hours' pay per month of service; elimination of straight time in so-called seven day operation clauses.

COUNCILS: Delegates urged the building up of regional or county skilled trades councils to draw together members of the Union on problems confronting them within a competitive group.

CIO, AFL Sign No-Raid Pact

WASHINGTON—The CIO and AFL have signed the no-raiding agreement previously approved by the conventions of the two organizations.

The immediate effect is on those unions directly affiliated with the parent bodies — Local Industrial Unions of the CIO and Federal Unions of the AFL. The agreement will also cover all international affiliates of the two groups who sign. Others who do not sign may raid or be raided.

Both CIO President Walter P. Reuther and AFL President George Meany said, however, that they expected the great majority of their organizations to sign the agreement, which has been described as a "first step" toward possible unity between the AFL and CIO.

The agreement applies only to the United States and its territories and possessions. Its application in Canada will be determined by the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress and the Canadian Congress of Labor.

Signers of the two-year agreement last month were Treasurer James B. Carey and AFL Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler.

Flint CIO Builds

FLINT, Michigan (LPA)—The Flint CIO Council has bought a two-story building and will occupy part of the premises at an early date. The regional CIO office also probably will be housed there. The old CIO building was wrecked by a fire and explosion October 23.

Man Who Says He Was There Names 4 in Reuther Shooting

The normal procedures for the trial of the people named as being involved in the attempted murder of Walter P. Reuther were interrupted a few days after the warrants were issued when a witness against them being held in protective custody by the Detroit police walked out of a downtown Detroit hotel, eluding his police guards.

Donald Ritchie, the witness, fled first to Windsor, Ont., Canada, where he lives, and then disappeared. He gave himself up in Preston, Ont., Tuesday night, January 12, to Dennis Harvey, a reporter for the Hamilton, Ontario, *Spectator*, who turned him over to police. Ritchie at first agreed to waive extradition, but changed his mind and decided to fight it before he could be transported back to the United States by Detroit and Ontario provincial police.

CLAIMED 'WAS THERE'

According to Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Gerald K. O'Brien, Ritchie claimed to have ridden in the car with Reuther's assailants the night of the attempted murder. He named Clarence Jacobs as the driver of the car and as the person who did the actual shooting. He said they were accompanied by Lombardo. He named Renda as the person who paid him to go along with Jacobs and Lombardo on the murder attempt, and Perrone, he said, had consulted about going during the day before the shooting occurred in the evening.

After Ritchie's disappearance the UAW-CIO announced that it had made arrangements through a Windsor attorney and a Canadian trust company to pay to Ritchie's wife a sum of money as a partial reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the attempted murder of Walter Reuther.

The money was to be paid only upon the fulfillment of certain conditions, spelled out in an escrow agreement, and then to be paid by the trust company when, in its judgment, the conditions had been fulfilled. The primary purpose of the agreement was to get Ritchie's agreement to leave Canada, come to Detroit voluntarily and tell his story to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, since it was impossible for the United States authorities to act as long as he was in Canada.

UNION STATEMENT

The union issued the following statement concerning the payment of the money to Ritchie's wife:

"Since the attempts upon the lives of Walter and Victor Reuther, the UAW-CIO has done everything in its power to assist in the solution of these two attempts at murder by bringing the guilty parties to justice. To this end the UAW-CIO has cooperated with local and national law enforcement agencies, and has in addition offered sizeable rewards which, together with rewards offered by local government units, civic, labor and fraternal groups aggregated approximately $220,000.

"Recently the UAW-CIO learned that one Donald Ritchie had information relating to the attempt upon the life of Walter Reuther. The UAW-CIO was advised that Ritchie wanted to make special arrangements to secure payment to his wife of a share of the reward offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any persons involved in the crime. The Union took the position that it would deal on this matter only through an attorney of unimpeachable reputation of Ritchie's choosing.

"This procedure was followed, and the UAW-CIO was advised by such a reputable attorney, a man of high standing in his profession in Windsor, Ontario, that Donald Ritchie had information which, in the attorney's judgment, might lead to the solution of the attempted murder of Walter Reuther. The attorney further advised the UAW-CIO that his client was prepared to disclose his information to the proper law enforcement agencies, including the Wayne County prosecuting attorney.

"Following these assurances and in an effort to contribute to the solution of these crimes, the UAW-CIO arranged for payment of $5,000 to the wife of Donald Ritchie in accordance with the arrangements worked out with his attorney.

"This arrangement was worked out without the knowledge of the law enforcement agencies or the Wayne County prosecuting attorney.

"The payment of this money, however, did not take place until Ritchie had disclosed his information to police authorities and to the prosecuting attorney, and then only after in their judgment the information disclosed by Ritchie was of a substantial nature and justified the issuance of warrants for the arrests of persons named by Ritchie as people involved in the crime.

"Ritchie at no time made any statement to the UAW concerning the facts of this crime. The UAW-CIO has relied solely upon the judgment and evaluation by public authorities, in the course of their duties, of the information given to them by Ritchie.

"Since the information made available by Ritchie could not have been obtained through normal procedures of the UAW reward offer, the Union advanced this additional money. The disposition of the outstanding reward still remains in the hands of the public committee established for that purpose."

Warrants Issued; Perrone Flees

Warrants for the arrest of four men accused of being involved in the attempted murder of Walter P. Reuther in April, 1958, were issued the first week in January on the initiative of Gerald K. O'Brien, Wayne County (Mich.) prosecuting attorney.

The four named in the warrants were:

SANTO (SAM) PERRONE, who, as The United Automobile Worker went to press, had not yet been apprehended by the police. Perrone, described by Detroit newspapers as a "labor-busting racketeer," was a key witness before the Kefauver Senate Crime Investigating Committee when it held hearings in Detroit in 1951. At that time he had connections with the Michigan Stove Works, a Detroit firm, where he held a scrap contract and apparently had an important, though informal, influence on the company's labor relations.

After the Kefauver committee hearings, he and others associated with him were convicted of interfering with the organiza- of a union at the stove works. He was released on probation. He has an earlier criminal record.

CARL RENDA, Perrone's son-in-law, who also figured as a witness in the Crime Committee's Detroit investigation. Renda was arrested the night the warrants were issued and is free on $25,000 bond, pending a preliminary examination to determine whether he shall be held for trial. Renda, it was brought out at the Crime Committee hearings, held a scrap contract with the Briggs Manufacturing Company.

Testimony brought out in the hearings indicated that Renda had no experience to qualify him to execute the contract, had no equipment, trucks, offices, railroad sidings and other things necessary to the handling of scrap. It was also brought out that the contract between Renda and Briggs cost the company more than a contract with another bona fide and equipped scrap company would have cost. Renda has since lost the contract.

PETER LOMBARDO, a convict with a previous criminal record, currently serving time in Federal prison for counterfeiting.

CLARENCE JACOBS, also with a criminal record, who has been named as the person who actually did the shooting in the attempted murder of Walter Reuther. Jacobs has been apprehended in Windsor, Ontario, where he lives, and is fighting extradition to the United States to face the charges made here.

THAT CIO-AFL NO-RAIDING PACT which industry didn't want labor to agree upon gets signed in Washington following unanimous adoption by both the CIO and AFL conventions. Signing the historic document are, l. to r., AFL Secretary William Schnitzler, AFL President George Meany, CIO President Walter P. Reuther and CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey.

Union Calls for Nationwide Conference on Job Situation

In accordance with the resolution unanimously adopted by the 1,000 delegates to the UAW-CIO's Full Employment Conference Dec. 7, President Walter P. Reuther asked President Eisenhower in a letter mailed January 13, to convene at the earliest practicable date a "broad, representative conference to discuss ways and means of maintaining full production and full employment."

"In the past six months, the growth of our economy has been halted," Reuther told the President. "Total output, as reflected in the gross national product, was smaller in the third quarter of 1953 than in the second quarter of 1953. Available figures suggest that it is still decreasing."

Reuther emphasized to the President the declining employment in the automobile and agricultural implement industries but also stressed the overall decline in employment.

"Clearly," he said, "a recession has set in. So far, the decline has been small overall, but its impact has already been severe in some industries and areas, particularly in farm equipment. **(See Pages 6 and 7).** This decline is a warning that can be ignored only at our peril."

In his letter to the President, Reuther repeated a statement he had made at the time of the Union's Full Employment Conference:

"We in the UAW-CIO have faith and confidence in the future of the American econoomy," he said. "We believe we must steer a course between panic, on the one hand, which could produce a psychological depression, and a do-nothing attitude, on the other hand, which could produce a real depression.

"It is for this reason that we urge your serious and earnest consideration of our proposal that a broad, representative conference be convened to develop a program to insure full producion and full employment in peace time."

LATEST JOB FIGURES

Reuther detailed the latest unployment figures in the automobile and agricultural implement industries:

"The Chrysler Corporation, one of the big three in the automobile industry, has reduced employment has been reduced from a peak of 138,000 as of April, 1953. At the present time 26,440 Chrysler workers with seniority are laid off. In the Dodge division of the Chrysler Corporation, employment has been reduced from 33,000 to 12,500.

"Among the so-called independents in the auto industry:

"Hudson employment has been reduced by more than half, from over 15,500 to 7,500.

"Nash has reduced employment by almost half, from 21,000 to 11,500.

"Packard employment has fallen from 17,900 to 10,000.

"Studebaker employment has been reduced from 20,000 to 11,000."

FARM IMPLEMENTS

"In the agricultural implement industry, as of the time of our Full Employment Conference, International Harvester had reduced employment by 24,000, from a peak of 71,400.

"J. I. Case had reduced its employment 50 per cent.

"The same was true of John Deere.

"In the Quad-Cities area employment was down 10,000 from 50,000 normally employed in the agricultural implement plants in that area.

"A survey of 38 agricultural implement plants in which our Union represents the workers disclosed that the normal work force of 110,180 has been reduced by 27,449 as of November 21, 1953, a reduction of 25 percent."

Reuther said the conference the Union proposes should, "we believe, be broadly representative of industry, labor, agriculture, consumers and government."

THE AMERICAN WAY

"This is the American way of meeting the problem and the challenge of maintaining full employment and full protection in peace time in our free society," he said. "Such a conference would bring out the best thinking of all groups in our population directed toward the common goal of keeping America strong, prosperous and free by keeping America at work. Meeting in the same room each group would gain maximum consciousness of the needs and problems of all the others. The program that emerged from their joint deliberations can be one behind which all citizens of good will can unite."

Other excerpts from Reuther's letter follow:

"The Census Bureau reports that 1,136,000 fewer people were employed in December, 1953 than in December, 1952, while our population of working age continued to increase. Officially reported unemployment, as calculated by the Census Bureau, rose from 1,162,000 in early October to 1,850,000 in early December, an increase of 59 percent in two months.

JOBS DRY UP

"Because of the drying up of job opportunities, the labor force this past December, according to the Census Bureau, was smaller by 700,000 than in December, 1952, in contrast to the expected increase of 700,000. This means that, in addition to officially reported unemployment of 1,850,000 as of December, 1953, there were 1,400,000 persons who would have been working or looking for work had there been greater possibilities of finding jobs. **In a very real sense, therefore, actual unemployment last month approximated 3¼ million.**

"Claims for unemployment compensation, which are the most current index to the unemployment situation, have been rising at an alarming rate in recent weeks, as Bureau of Employment Security figures show. In the week ending January 2, 1954, continued claims for unemployment compensation increased by 289,000 over the preceding week.

"In the Detroit area, according to the Michigan Employment Security Commission, 107,000 workers, 7 per cent of the area's labor force, are already unemployed with more layoffs expected in the weeks ahead.

"The most optimistic statements we have seen, from either government or private sources, say only that, at best, we shall maintain the 1954 economy at levels equal to the average of all of 1953, including the declines in the third and fourth quarters. This prospect is presented as 'continued prosperity.'

CAN'T STAND STILL

"Our free dynamic economy cannot mark time. It must either expand and go forward, or it will contract and slip backward.

"Even if there were no danger that the present decline may continue and accelerate, immediate action is imperative both to relieve the hardships already imposed on thousands of families and to set our economy back on the path of expansion. Only by such action can we assure ample employment opportunities for our growing population of working age.

HAVE CONFIDENCE

"We have unlimited confidence in the future of the American economy, provided the productive capacity of that economy is geared to the tremendous unfilled needs of people.

"We need have no fear for the future if we are prepared to act quickly, vigorously and courageously to mobilize our productive resources to meet our needs.

"A broad, representative conference of the kind we propose will provide the general staff to map out the strategy for a positive war against man's ancient enemies, poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease."

Three Mine, Mill Locals Throw Off Red Shackles

WASHINGTON (LPA)—Three locals of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers, which was expelled from the CIO in 1950 on charges of Communist domination, have taken steps to pull out and to reaffiliate with the CIO through the United Steelworkers of America, the CIO has announced.

The locals, with membership totaling 7,000, are two at Butte and one at Anaconda, Montana, and have had a "long tradition of militant democratic unionism and opposition to Communism," the CIO said.

In revealing the move, CIO President Walter P. Reuther appealed to other locals of the "disintegrating" Mine-Mill union to come back. "The CIO recognized" in 1950, he said, "as it does now, that the overwhelming majority of the members of Mine-Mill want a democratic union controlled only by the members and that they are devoted and loyal to the principles of American democracy."

He noted "a growing realization among Mine-Mill members of the destructive leadership provided by the Communist rule-or-ruin group in the international. Revolts against this leadership have been frequent, and the record shows that about half the membership of the Mine-Mill in 1950 has left it, mostly to come into the CIO. As a result, more non-ferrous workers are in the CIO today than in the discredited Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers.

Reuther said the locals at Butte and Anaconda "are three of the oldest, strongest and most influential locals in Mine-Mill."

On Polio Board

UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther, recently named co-chairman of the Labor Division of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, urged participation of all CIO members in the March of Dimes drive. Said Reuther, "Never should a single victim of infantile parilysis, or any other disease, be denied, for financial reasons, every possible advantage of medical aid and skill."

"I'M QUITTING!..ON THIS JOB I FEEL I'M JUST SCABBING ON A MULE!"

Auto-Lite Locals Win Adjustments

Local plant level negotiations on inequities in the various plants of Auto-Lite are proceeding satisfactorily, Vice President Richard Gosser announced.

Hourly and incentive adjustments ranging from 3 cents to 10 cents an hour have been negotiated in Auto-Lite Locals 12, Toledo; 446, Fostoria, Ohio; 472, Atlanta, Georgia; Local 509, Paramount, California; Local 675, Vincennes, Indiana; Local 754, Owosso, Michigan, and Local 964, Syracuse, New York.

Local 519, Hazelton, Pa. was granted a 5 cents per hour plantwide adjustment in September, retroactive to July 20, 1953.

Negotiations are progressing at other plants of the chain.

Mitchell Gets UAW Conference Reports

At the same time that he urged President Eisenhower to call a broad, representative conference to make recommendations to insure full production and full employment, UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther forwarded to Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell a communication on the reports received and the recommendations adopted by the Union's Full Employment Conference in Washington last month.

Reuther had promised Mitchell, a speaker at the conference, that he would forward the reports to him.

Two of the reports he forwarded were those on unemployment affecting UAW-CIO members, based on survey covering 1,578 plants employing approximately 90 per cent of the Union's membership, and another specifically on the agricultural implement industry. The survey showed that employment in the industries under UAW-CIO jurisdiction has been reduced by more than 15 per cent from the 1953 peak of 1,506,160 to 1,269,399 as of October. Details of the report on the agricultural implement industry are included in the story of Reuther's letter to President Eisenhower on Page 3 of this issue of **The United Automobile Worker.**

Elaborating on these reports, Reuther said:

"The Director of the Agricultural Implement Department of our Union reported to the Conference that the prospect for 1954 is that almost 50 percent of the workers in that industry will be unemployed during most of the year.

"In the month since our Full Employment Conference, unemployment has continued to grow. This past week end the Michigan Employment Security Commission reported 107,000 unemployed in the Detroit area, 7 percent of the area's labor force.

"These figures point up the serious situation that has arisen in industries that constitute an important part of the industrial base of our country.

"Behind these figures are the families of the workers who do not have jobs and are bringing home no wages. Our concern is for these workers and their families and for what their lack of buying power can mean to jobs and business prospects throughout the economy. We have the same concern about the loss of buying power among farmers—a situation that is brought home to us by the layoffs of workers in plants producing agricultural implements and light trucks."

In his letter to Mitchell, President Reuther also outlined the program adopted by the union at the Full Employment Conference which was reported in detail in the December issue of the **United Automobile Worker.**

"Hey! That's My Future!"

An Editorial...

Ike's 'New Deal'

The President's State of the Union Message this year is novel in two respects. While far longer than most, it contains few specific legislative proposals. These are to go to Congress later in some 10 or more separate messages.

The other novel aspect is the reaction it aroused among members of the President's own party. Many of these were not slow to say that it sounded like Truman, or even the New Deal. They also said it gives Congress too much to do, and it is now clear that the Republican leadership will pick out a few pieces of his program and try to get enough Republicans to back him up so that the President may get by with the help of votes from Democratic side.

A CAREFULLY COLORED PICTURE

In this selective process most of the items in the program that have a "welfare state" ring (it's being called the "service state" now) will die on the vine. Others will get a going over so they can have enough Republican support to bring them to a vote. But this watering down of Eisenhower promises to Republican performance may not hurt Eisenhower. Indeed it may help him. **It fits the picture that is being carefully colored to represent the President as being better than his Party and doing the best he can.**

Is there a basis for this build-up? While the message is long on words and short on concrete proposals, it can be examined to see what truth there is to the idea that it leans to the liberal side.

BREAK WITH ROOSEVELT-TRUMAN

Here are points made in the message that mark a definite break with Roosevelt-Truman policies:

Foreign Aid. The President proposes to merge military and economic types of foreign assistance, and to merge military aid abroad with expenditures for our own defense. **This gears in with his policy of seeking military alliances around the world while subordinating economic aid to countries whose continuing poverty makes them ripe for communism.**

The Budget. He claims a reduction in federal expenditures of $7 billion this year and $5 billion next year. Government services are reflecting this economy drive. Enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards and Walsh-Healey Act is crippled by cuts in Labor Department funds. The Farmers Home program of Agriculture has just had another cut of 40 percent in its services to marginal farms. NLRB is making up for reduction in funds by voluntarily eliminating more and more industries from its jurisdiction —turning them back to State labor regulation.

Taxes. He promises to send up on January 21, a list of 25 proposed changes in the tax laws which, it is known, will throw a few sops to consumers but will concentrate on giving tax relief to business. Five-year write-offs will be available on most business investments; dividend receivers are to get a big tax credit; retained earnings of business will get favorable treatment. The New Deal fought off depression by raising consumers incomes; the new administration hopes to stimulate business investment. **The "top-down" theory replaces the "bottom-up" theory of prosperity.**

Agriculture. He tells farmers that the way to control production is to reduce their prices and seeks to persuade consumers that high prices under the farm program have been holding down their consumption of food.

Conservation. He repeats his intention to let "local" interests have first crack at power sites on our rivers. Such "local" interests turn out to be power companies controlled from New York, Boston or Chicago.

Postal Rates. He asks Congress to approve last year's bill which hikes first class postage 33%, although it is earning a surplus at present rates, and would continue to carry second and third class mail at deficits which are, in effect, subsidies to newspaper and magazine publishers and direct mail advertisers.

Labor. Taft-Hartley, the message says, "is basically a sound law."

Health. "I am flatly opposed to the socialization of medicine," the message says, adopting the smear word applied to National Health Insurance by the bitter-enders of the AMA who say the job can be done by voluntary plans. The message relies chiefly on these, but concedes that some government aids on the side might be helpful.

Housing. The message makes a grudging concession to public housing "until alternative programs prove effective," which is far to the right of Senator Taft who recognized that public housing must provide a significant part of the new homes this country needs.

FLYING HIGH

WINGFOOT LAKE, Ohio—The UAW-CIO received 326 out of approximately 500 possible votes in a recent NLRB election at the Goodyear plant here, Region 2 Director Patrick J. O'Malley reported. It manufactures aircraft parts. In nearby Cleveland, workers at the Accurate Parts Corporation cast a majority of accurate votes for the UAW in another NLRB election.

Temporary Dip

WASHINGTON (LPA) — After advancing for eight months, setting a new high each time, the cost of living slid back 0.3 percent between mid-October and mid-November, to 115. This left it still 0.6 percent above a year ago, and 13 percent above June 1950. Lower food prices accounted for the lower index, but wholesale food prices shot up 6 cents in the week ended Dec. 22, and this is being reflected at retail now.

"I'll Get It!"

No Socialism to Creep Across Detroit River

WASHINGTON — Is Canadian socialism creeping into Detroit?

When Detroit Edison Company late last year unveiled its plan of interchanging electric power with the Hydro-electric Power Commission of Canada it was flirting with the kind of thing President Eisenhower calls creeping socialism.

There's not much doubt that Windsor, Ontario, electric rates would give Detroit Edison the creeps if there was any danger that this socialism would creep across the Detroit River.

For 250 Kilowatt hours of electric power a Windsor consumer pays $3.33. A Detroit consumer $7.74. These are Federal Power Commission figures for January, 1952.

As a result, the average Windsor household uses 286 kwh of electricity per month. The average Detroiter uses 133 kwh.

Is there any danger that the new interchange agreement will subject Detroit households to buying so much electricity at such low cost? The answer is no. Senator Potter and Congressman Wolcott got a bil through the last session of congress which exempts this interchange from Federal Power Commission regulation.

Detroit Edison believes strictly in the U.S. brand of socialism which pours the bounties on the top of the heap. It has been granted a rapid write-off on $65.5 million of investments. This will give it tax savings which Federal Power Commission says it does not have to pass on to its customers. Over 33 and one-third years this bounty from us taxpayers to Detroit Edison will be worth $98.5 milion at going interest rates.

Banks Prosper

NEW YORK (LPA — When the Eisenhower Administration announced its "hard money" and "honest dollar" policy of raising interest rates, Labor pointed out that the banks would profit, the citizens would pay the bill. Year-end figures show Labor was right.

The nation's major banks made more money in 1953 than ever before in their history, despite higher operating expenses and higher taxes, although deposits and total resources were lower than in 1952. Gross income before taxes and expenses was "sharply higher,' the *Journal of Commerce* reported, "reflecting both the sustained high volume of earning assets and the higher scale of money rates that prevailed for the greater portion of the year." By "money rates" the Journal means higher interest rates.

Profits were 5 to 15 percent higher than 1952, the Journal reported.

Machinists To Build

WASHINGTON (LPA) — An 11-story building will be constructed here by the International Association of Machinists to house its expanding headquarters staff, President Al Hayes announced. Plans were being drawn this month and work on the building will getunder way "as soon as possible," he said.

PASTORS' UNION, some 215 strong, meets in Solidarity House to hear UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther outline the UAW program for achieving the better life through the guaranteed annual wage and full employment. Shown here is but a part of the Detroit area ministers' group, chaired by the Reverend John W. Parrish.

AMA Asks Death Of Social Security

WASHINGTON. — "The basic objection to bringing an additional 10 million persons under Old Age and Survivors Insurance (Social Security) is that such an action by the Congress would be another long step towards "Big Government and the Welfare State," says the American Medical Association in a recent issue of its monthly Journal.

In typical AMA-Chamber of Commerce style, the medics' leaders oppose any extension of Social Security benefits, and advocate drastic increases—up to six per cent—in contributions of older workers. They also propose to forever cancel the $18 billion in bonds now in the OASI trust fund.

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Ike Hedges on 1952 Campaign T-H Pledges

WASHINGTON — Labor has been short-weighted on the most definite 1952 campaign promise President Eisenhower made regarding Taft-Hartley amendments.

In 1952 he pledged lifting of the ban against economic strikers voting in NLRB elections.

In his 1954 recommendations to Congress, President Eisenhower offered as a substitute proposal, that no election should be held prior to the termination of a strike nor upon a petition by a union for a period of four months and upon an employer's petition for one year.

While this substitute would protect the strikers for four months, it would also give the employer an incentive to hold out for four months or a year until he could get the scabs or another union willing to make a sweetheart agreement to file a petition, or at the end of a year to file a petition himself.

Amendments to make Taft-Hartley worse far outnumber and outweigh two minor improvements. These two improvements would:

(1) Permit secondary boycotts against farmed-out work and against scab work on construction projects; and

(2) Relieve unions of responsibility for unauthorized acts of members while continuing their responsibility for acts of their agents under the common law of agency.

Probably the worst feature of the Eisenhower message is not in any of his 14 recommendations, but in his announcement that a study is to be made of Federal-State legal conflicts in the labor field to devise clear authority for states "to deal with emergency situations endangering health or safety" regardless of Federal law.

Smith jumped the gun on this, including in his bill:

"Nothing in this act shall be construed to nullify the power of any state or territory to protect the health or safety of the people of such state or territory during emergencies resulting from labor disputes."

If passed, such a provision would mean full employment for lawyers for years in keeping up with anti-labor officials stretching the words "health," "safety" and "emergencies" to cover not only public utilities, transportation and communication, but other services and production.

While both Eisenhower's recommendations and Smith's bill would continue 80-day injunctions in national emergencies, Eisenhower's offer to make injunctions discretionary in secondary boycott issues seems a small gain. But, considering the present character of the NRLB, it means practically nothing.

Among the bad recommendations are:

—Proposal to limit a check-off of union dues for the duration of a contract, "unless the employe sooner revokes such authorization."

—Outlawing negotiations during the life of a contract on any matter not specifically authorized in the contract, except by mutual consent.

—The vague and tricky language "Congress should make clear that the right of free speech, as now defined in the act, applies equally to labor and management in every aspect of their relationship." What does this mean, for example, in relation to the pumping of anti-labor propaganda into "captive audiences" on company time and premises while denying unions, under recent NRLB decisions, the same amount of time and space?

Both Eisenhower and Smith propose to deal with the Communist oath issue by extending the requirement to employers. But Eisenhower opens the door to invite separate legislation "dealing with Communist infiltration generally," saying that if such legislation is enacted making the Communist disclaimer provisions of Taft-Hartley unnecessary, he will then recommend their elimination—of the provisions, that is.

"LIKE I WAS TELLING YA, FRED—YOU NON-UNION GUYS ALWAYS GET HOOKED IN THE END!"

Smith Trips Ives and Ike

WASHINGTON — A few minutes after President Eisenhower's message recommending 14 changes in the Taft-Hartley Act was read to the Senate, Senator H. Alexander Smith (R., N.J.), Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, tripped up both President Eisenhower and Secretary of Labor Mitchell by introducing a bill which provides that in any and all strikes or work stoppages the NLRB shall conduct a strike vote some time after the strike or stoppage has begun.

Eisenhower and Mitchell had recommended such a vote before a strike begins. Mischief-making as their recommendation is, in that it gives employers an additional reason for holding back from genuine collective bargaining and the making of their best offer in an atmosphere of free collective bargaining, Smith's substitute was more clearly anti-labor than the Eisenhower - Mitchell recommendation which Senator Hill (D., Ala.), a Labor Committee member, said appeared on its face to be "anti-union."

Smith's action in putting a stick between Eisenhower's and Mitchell's legs, much as he had done four days earlier in going over Senator Ives' (R., N.Y.) head to postpone FEPC hearings, appears to have been deliberate. Smith told the press that he had put the time for the vote after the strike had started in order "to give the workers a break," adding that he had in mind a time "two or three weeks after a strike starts, when it begins to hurt the worker." Smith plugged this pet notion during last year's Taft-Hartley hearings. It was an NAM proposal last year, but was dropped from NAM's latest recommendations.

Studying Silicosis

The second meeting of the Foundry Wage and Hour Council's committee to study silicosis will be held February 1 in Solidarity House. At the initial meeting this month, the committee mapped an extensive study of the disease and laid out plans for an educational program to help foundry workers guard against it.

Happy New Year!

Liberals Turn No Cartwheels Over State of Union Message

WASHINGTON (LPA) — Platitudes, deferred promises and a retreat from campaign pledges—that was the way liberal members of congress characterized President Eisenhower's State of the Union message, while labor awaited specific recommendations to be presented later. Some of the comment:

Said CIO President Reuther: "President Eisenhower's State of the Union message is in many respects merely an index of legislation proposals to come at later dates. The CIO will comment, at the proper time, on these specific legislative plans.

"Most Americans can agree with the basic objectives set out by the president for a better America. The CIO will judge the administration by its ability to translate these fine sentiments into tangible and constructive programs to meet the problems of all Americans."

* * *

Senator Wayne Morse (I-Ore.), called the message "a masterpiece of platitudes, raising false hopes," and said: "The record of the Eisenhower administration to date simply cannot be squared with many of the representations made in the speech. With an Eisenhower administration recession well under way, this congress has the duty of substituting sound legislation protecting the economic welfare of the American people for the political propaganda of the State of the Union message."

Former President Truman commented that the statement "contained a great many New Deal recommendations, and insofar as it did it was a good message."

Rep. Robert W. Kean (R-NJ) hoped the administration would follow through quickly with a program for strengthening the social security system. "The sooner congress gets this program the better is the chance of legislating the needed improvements before congress adjourns," he said.

* * *

House Democratic Leader Sam Rayburn noted the message made "few, if any, specific recommendations on major subjects," pointing out "we still have to wait to see what President Eisenhower's program is."

Expressing himself as "greatly disappointed" with the farm portion of the message, Senator Robert S. Kerr, (D-Okla.) declared: "What the president said was consistent neither with what he said as a candidate nor with the requirements of American farmers. He endorsed flexible price supports, which means depression for farmers."

Said Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.): "The president's policy on agriculture can only be interpreted as a retreat from his campaign pledges. Flexible price supports mean lower farm income and a piling up of surpluses. I would expect that congress would reject such a proposal."

Senators Ralph E. Flanders (R-Vt.) and Guy M. Gillette (D-Iowa) said the message had one good point in that it was the first time the administration had promised specific messages on specific problems on specific dates. "Instead of repeated 'government by postponement,'" Gillette added.

* * *

Greatest applause, by far, during delivery of the message came when Eisenhower proposed legislation to revoke the citizenship of any Communist convicted of plotting to overthrow the government, but even that left congress puzzled over what its effect would be.

Vice-President Nixon predicted passage of the measure would have "great moral effect at home and abroad" and it would show that the real crime in communism is "loyalty to a foreign power." Senator Pat McCarran (D-Nev.), former chairman of Senate Internal Security subcommittee, called the plan "halfbaked" and "not thought out."

McCarran and Senator William E. Jenner (R-Ind) agreed the proposal would add little to present penalties for a person convicted of a felony, including the crime of conspiring to overthrow the government. Jenner, however, said the important thing was not the details but that Eisenhower had showed he was "not going to be soft on communism."

NLRB Strikes Blow Against Free Speech

WASHINGTON (LPA) — The two new Eisenhower appointees to the National Labor Relations Board, Chairman Guy Farmer and Member Phillip Ray Rodgers ruled last month that it is no longer an unfair labor practice for an employer to make anti-union speeches to captive employes on company time and property without giving the victim union an opportunity to reply.

Instead, such speeches are only banned for 24 hours immediately before an election — but, if the employer violates this rule, it is still not an unfair labor practice but merely a ground for setting aside the election.

Commie Reporters Strike Against Reds

TOKYO, Japan — Millions of members of democratic unions laughed out loud and leaders of the Communist Party developed a slow burn when 50 newspaper workers threatened to strike. What made the strike different —unprecedented, in fact — was that the 50 newspapermen were employes of the official Communist publication, Red Flag. After announcing their threat to strike for a $33 year-end bonus, the newsmen declared, "We can't continue our fight for Communism on empty stomachs."

Moreover, they pointed out angrily, their Communist paper prints hundreds of stories on how other workers are underpaid.

Ford Comp Case Gets Postponed

DETROIT — Hearings involving unemployment pay claims of some 12,000 Detroit area Ford workers have been adjourned until January 18. The hearings, before Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) referee Samuel Sternberg, were requested by the UAW-CIO when claims filed by the workers were rejected by the MESC.

The claims cover periods of unemployment which followed a strike at the Ford company's forge plant in Canton, Ohio.

The Commission ruled that the strike in another state disqualified the Michigan workers laid off at the same time.

The union argues that the Michigan workers involved and the Canton, Ohio, strikers were not part of the same establishment and therefore eligible for compensation.

The Michigan law provides that benefits must be paid to workers laid off through no fault of their own following a strike in a different establishment.

The exact number of claimants totals 11,556. They are seeking some $600,000 in benefits. The ruling is expected to set a Michigan precedent for this type of case.

Willow Run Area Suffers From Job Loss

Twenty communities in the Willow Run vicinity have serious unemployment problems as the result of the curtailment of Kaiser-Frazer production there and the sale of the big plant to General Motors, a survey conducted by the UAW-CIO reveals.

Both the workers and the towns which grew up around the Willow Run operations are finding themselves involved in localalized economic slumps.

Questionnaires were sent to all members of UAW-CIO Local 142, the K-F Local. Of the 3,704 laid-off workers who replied, 60 per cent indicated they have not found other jobs and another 10 per cent reported they had to take work which they viewed as 'unsatisfactory." Only 699 replied that they were still working at Kaiser-Frazer.

The survey shows that most of the workers tried to find employment at General Motors which transferred its Livonia operation to Willow Run after the Livonia plant fire last August. Of the 2,527 who reported applying, only 496 were hired. (Latest figures show that of the more than 12,000 laid off at Willow Run, 1,432 have been hired by GM.) Of the survey group not hired at GM, only 311 found other jobs, and 200 of these termed them "unsatisfactory."

Nearly 90 per cent of the workers returning the questionnaires live outside Detroit, the bulk of them in communities within easier commuting distance of Willow Run. Many are skilled or semi-skilled workers. Their pay checks played an important part in the business activity of their communities.

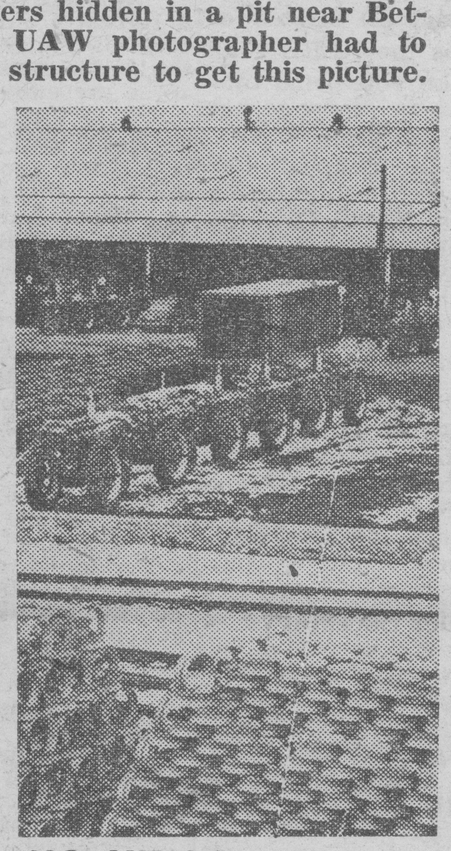
These communities, naturally want to get the men and women back at work.

Typical of the action taken in these communities is that of the Village Council at Inkster, where 215 former Kaiser workers still seek jobs. It passed a resolution appealing to General Motors, Lincoln-Mercury and other industries in the area "to employ laid-off former Kaiser Motors employes to protect the economy of Inkster and surrounding communities."

The resolution pointed out that "the extended credits of local merchants, local banks and other local mortgage and credit institutions are affected resulting from the inability of unemployed former Kaiser Motors employes to meet their financial repsonsibilities."

IT STARTED ON THE FARM when declining prices for grain and dairy products and cattle forced farmers to stop buying new equipment. Then farm equipment manufacturers found surpluses of machinery on their hands like these J. I. Case corn pickers hidden in a pit near Bettendorf, Iowa. The UAW photographer had to climb atop a bridge structure to get this picture.

THE BLIGHT SPREAD as manufacturers began filling all available space with farm equipment like these tractors placed behind a coal pile at Farmall works in East Moline. Although reductions were made in the work force, few manufacturers wanted to admit how deeply the industry was in trouble.



NO HIDIN' PLACE existed for machinery and parts and they piled up outside buildings like this one above.

HALF-EMPTY PARKING LOTS like these tell an eloquent story to experienced factory workers. In Quad-Cities workers in the grip of the local depression started remembering how parking lots that were only half full led to parking lots that were empty during the 1930's. They hope for some quick improvements.

THE SQUEEZE IS ON as worke operator in the Harvester East Moli rent and all those hungry mouths t

'Readju

QUAD-CITIES, Illinois—A desert starts ou Unless it is irrigated, it grows by eating away at tile soil around the edges. Here in the heart of the farm implement industry creeping unemployment i ening to turn a once-prosperous area into just economic wasteland.

Quad-Cities is composed of four towns, Moli Moline and Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Io mally they employ 55,000 men and women. Now mately one out of every five is out of work.

Hardest hit are the 14 farm equipment plants more than 17,000 production and maintenance only half are still on the payroll, many downgr jobs paying 40-cents an hour less than they were n year ago.

STUDY IN WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Anyone who wonders about what can happer country if the economic deserts aren't watered some answers here. One of several dozen communit logued in Washington as "labor surplus areas," Qua illustrates what those cold words mean.

To the 10,000 men and women out of work, th anxiety and desperation. To their more fortunat bors, they mean worry about whether they will be to get the ax at the plant. While some men in Ike's pass off "labor surplus areas" as part of a "hea adjustment" or "normal business fluctuation," peo have a different definition.

One Navy veteran from a John Deere plant "They tell us not to worry about a depression. In Cities, we've GOT A DEPRESSION."

In a feature this month, **U. S. News and World** a business-slanted magazine, admits that business i Cities is off 11 per cent. Local merchants say it' than that. They're laying off help.

HARDSHIP CASES MOUNT

Finance companies are repossessing automob radios and kitchen appliances. A good many UA members here are buying homes. With unemployme pensation benefit maximums of $27 a week in Illi $26 a week in Iowa they can't meet their paym far, the banks haven't started foreclosing, but m time on their hands and a few thousand dollars e their homes are aging rapidly.

One of them offered his home for sale two mon He hasn't had a single inquiry. Like hundreds of his unemployment compensation runs out in F Many fear that unless they are called back to wo foreclosures won't be far away.

A veteran truck operator with four children out, "I thought it was bad when I had to wait in the army. I thought I put all that behind me

...stment' in Quad-Cities

came back. Now I wait in a line more than a block long to get my unemployment compensation check. When those run out, we'll be waiting for that wolf at the door."

For mothers who had to spend every cent of the compensation checks for food, their approaching end raises questions almost beyond their comprehension. Many have had to cut down on the milk for the kids as it is. While relief checks would average higher than the outmoded scale of Illinois and Iowa compensation payments, delays in getting relief are almost certain, and some lack the necessary residence requirements.

UNION ONE BRIGHT SPOT

The four communities and their daily newspaper feel the influence of the companies in their relief policies. The agencies and the paper follow the industry line of minimizing the effects of the lay offs. For dozens denied benefits to which they are entitled, the UAW-CIO Community Services headquarters in Moline has been their salvation. Union representatives frequently get action on emergency cases: help channel people to the state and federal agencies where they qualify for help.

UAW-CIO representatives have raised a storm in the state and national capitals to get defense work or public works started in Quad-Cities. Despite the growing need, they've had little success. One big reason appears to be that industry refuses to cooperate.

The four communities of Quad-Cities are beginning to take on the look of depression towns. Streets and stores are dangerously underpopulated. With a $2½ million a month drop in the Quad-Cities pay roll, consumption is down in everything except shoe leather. The latter is spent in the constant search for work.

Hundreds of people have left town. Many return with reports that industry simply isn't hiring elsewhere. Men and women with roots here hestitate at abandoning their stake in their communities. Others fear they will be stranded in places where they will have no qualifications for relief.

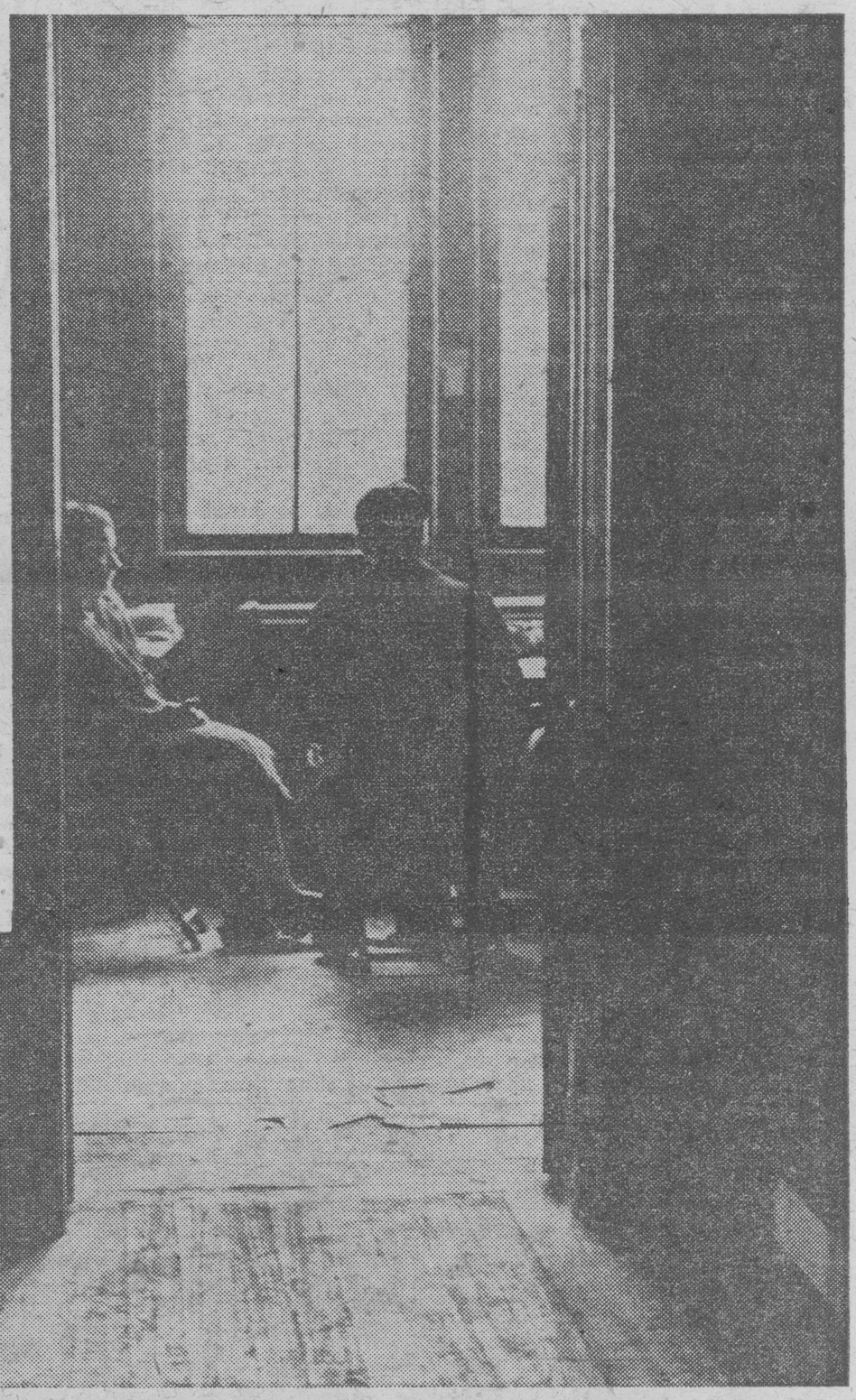
LAYOFFS HURT EVERYONE

The blight here actually started on the farm. Farmers, their income reduced almost one fifth under Secretary of Agriculture Benson's policies, simply aren't buying cars and clothes and farm equipment they can get along without.

Since workers here aren't able to buy much, merchants are buying less. As a consequence, the factories and mills which make the goods they sell have had that much less demand for their products and their work forces.

Here the feeling exists that if this trend isn't reversed the families in the grip of a local depression are going to have a lot of company.

A WORKER WORRIES as his children smile at him with innocent confidence. This 36-year-old line assembler has seven years' seniority in the International Harvester East Moline plant. He has nine children. Two weeks after he started buying a house, he was laid off. The sag in his shoulders tells what "normal readjustment" means to this man.



A WOMAN CRIES while being interviewed at the UAW-CIO Quad-Cities Community Services office. A UAW photographer didn't want to embarrass her so he took this picture from the hall. Her tears came because the community where she lives does not want to give much help to the jobless.

s like this lift-truck
e plant worry about
keep fed. After five years in the plant, this veteran employee, his wife and three children now reside in two cramped rooms. A fourth child is on the way.

CHRISTMAS IS SAVED for hundreds of children whose parents are out of work. UAW International Representative Robert Brown, shown handing out stockings, organized "Operation Santa Claus." A big Christmas party for the kids was held at UAW Hall in Moline.

Jersey's Smith Knifes FEPC And Fellow-GOP Senator Ives

WASHINGTON — When on January 7 Senate Labor Committee Chairman H. Alexander Smith (R-N. J.) sent wires to CIO President Walter P. Reuther and other witnesses postponing hearings on the Ives-Humphrey FEPC bill from January 12 to February 23, it was not the first time Smith had driven a knife into FEPC and, at the same time, into the back of the Bill's principal sponsor, Senator Irving M. Ives (R-N. Y.).

Smith did the same thing back in the Republican-controlled 80th Congress. On June 11, 1947, Ives was the first witness in support of S. 984, FEPC bill sponsored by himself and seven other members of both parties, including Smith. While Ives was describing the bill—and when the newsmen covering the hearing were about to go out to write a new 11 A.M. lead on the story—Smith interrupted Ives with a question that stole the hearing and the story from Ives and did damage to the whole FEPC fight!

"**SENATOR SMITH:** Now, Senator Ives, as I read our bill, going over it again . . . I have had in mind the possibility of considering an amendment in this bill, and **I just want to throw it out for the record and then get your judgment on the offering of an amendment which would permit any State, by legislative action taken within 90 days or so many months**—so much time after the passage of this act, giving time for the States to act by legislative action before the impact of this bill becomes law, give them all full notice that by legislative action taken within a period of time—**they may pass the necessary legislation to provide that sections 7 and 8, punitive and legislative sanctions section, of this act will NOT be applicable within that jurisdiction . . .**

"**SENATOR IVES.** In other words, I gather from what you say that you would not have the statute applicable in those States that didn't want it. Is that what you mean?

"**SENATOR SMITH.** No; I would exempt sections 7 and 8 from applicability in those States which by affirmative legislative acts, duly considered by their own legislature, say 'We feel in our jurisdiction these legal **sanctions** should **not** be applied in our State until we have tried the voluntary sanctions of mediation,' but make the **policy** applicable all over the United States. This is the theory.

"**SENATOR IVES:** Of course, the fact would be that the statute wouldn't be applicable in those particular States because, **unless you'd have the sanctions that are provided in it, the chances of any attention being paid to it are rather remote.**" (Pages 15-16, Senate Labor Committee Hearings, June 11, 1947).

Newsmen dashed for the door and the wires to tell the American people that Smith was walking out on Ives and on enforcement of FEPC in States where enforcement was most needed, namely, where discrimination in employment is most deeply imbedded.

SMITH SWING BACK

Months later, after great effort by supporters of FEPC in New Jersey and elsewhere, Smith swung back to unqualified support of the bill. But priceless time and momentum had been lost as a result of Smith's one-man filibuster-in-committee against his own bill. The bill was not reported out until Feb. 5, 1948, and was never brought to the floor.

Smith's 1954 job on FEPC was perfectly timed. After trying all day Jan. 6 to persuade Ives, as chairman of the Civil Rights subcommittee of the Labor Committee, to postpone the hearings that Ives, with Smith's approval, had scheduled to start Jan. 12 and continue for two weeks, Smith went over Ives' head and early on Jan. 7, a few hours before President Eisenhower's State of the Union message, fired out wires postponing the hearings, giving no reason, except that he found it necessary to do so.

Ives sent a blistering statement into the Senate Press Gallery before Eisenhower started speaking and Senator Douglas, a member of Ives' subcommittee, followed a few minutes later.

Senator Humphrey, one of the 18 co-sponsors of the FEPC bill, coupled Eisenhower's silence on civil rights with Smith's postponement of the hearings.

IVES OBJECTS

Ives said that he "strongly objects to this postponement of the scheduled hearings," adding that he felt that "such postponement may actually destroy the effectiveness of the hearings."

(Of course, all that had to be done was to arrange new dates for late in February and early March for about 30 witnesses, most of them busy officials of national labor, minority, religious, welfare, fraternal, civic and professional organizations. Arrangements for the Jan. 12 hearings had been in the works since May 15, when the first hearings were called off because President Eisenhower had insisted that Ives go to an ILO meeting in Geneva to fight off isolationist attacks upon the ILO).

Douglas said:

"I am deeply disappointed at the decision of the Republican majority to postpone hearings on the Equal Opportunity for Employment Act. I have always believed in this measure and nearly all of us on the Democratic side in the Labor Committee were prepared to support it vigorously. Only early action by the Committee would provide any substantial hope for its being considered and passed this session. This has apparently been knocked in the head by the action of Senator Smith and the Republican leadership. I am confident that nearly all of us Democrats on the Committee will continue to push for early and affirmative action."

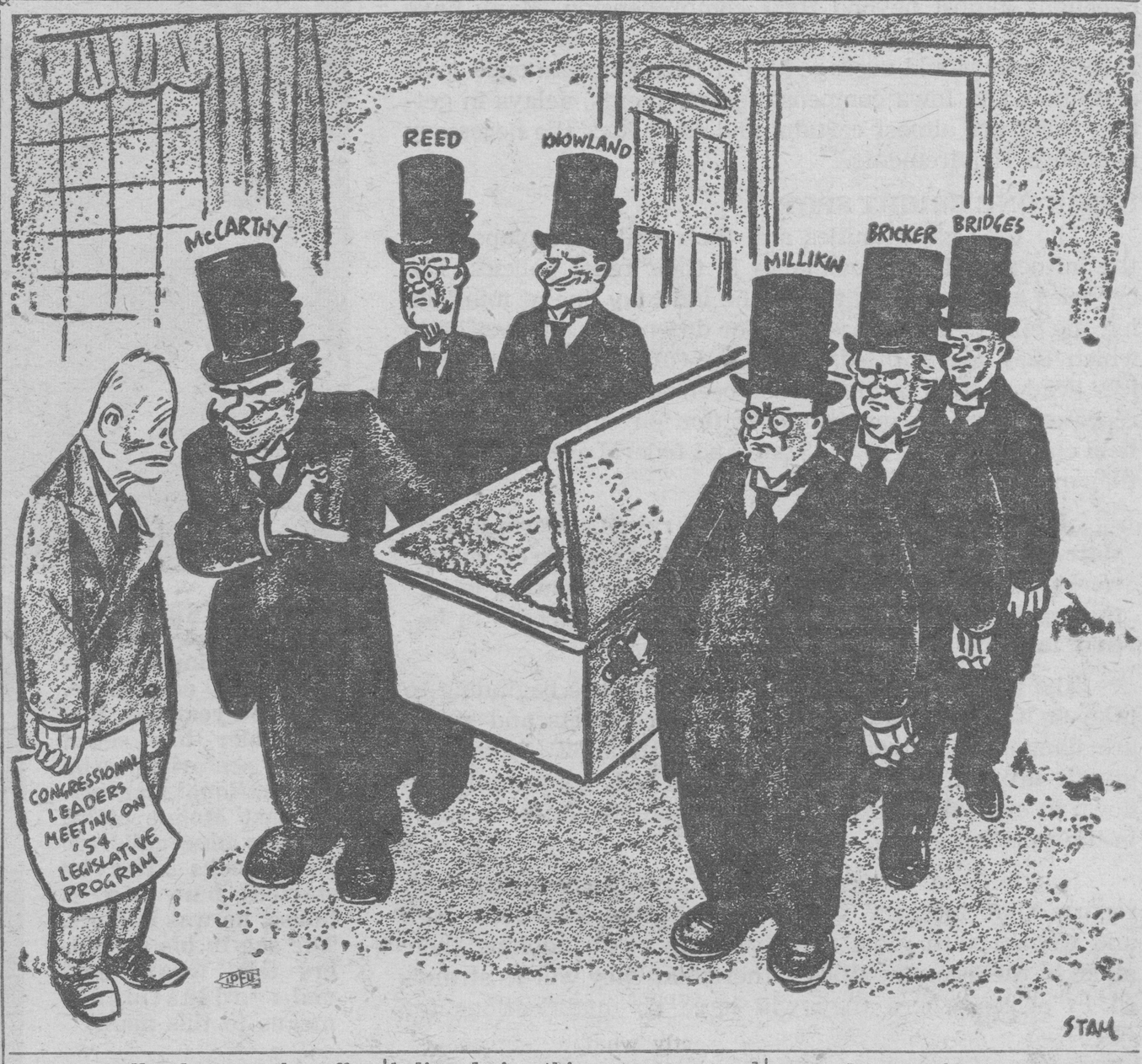
NAACP SHOCKED

And NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White fired this wire at Smith:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by your telegram postponing hearings on S. 692 from January 12 to a date approximately a month later. It is our conviction based on many years of experience that hearings on this measure scheduled as late as February 23 would almost certainly prevent measure from reaching Senate calendar and being voted on in time to prevent a filibuster from killing the bill, especially in an election year like 1954 when Congress will do its best to adjourn early to permit political campaigning. We are even more disturbed by the general belief at high Senate levels that the postponement announced in your telegram really means cancellation on a bill which is desperately needed to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, national origin, or ancestry. Today, newspapers report that there are now more than two million unemployed Americans and that present recession may increase number to four and one-half million during 1954. As you well know, members of minorities form a highly disproportionate percentage of present unemployed and in absence of Fair Employment Practice legislation will form a disproportionate number of those soon to be out of work. **The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urges rescheduling of hearings for January 12.** Any other action can only doom Americans to economic disaster solely because of race, color, religion, national origin, and ancestry."

ACTION OVERLOOKED

But except for the labor and Negro press, the New York Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and a few others, newspapers and radio generally overlooked Smith's action and the Ives, Douglas, Humphrey and White statements, possibly because of the commotion over President Eisenhower's message.



THE BRIGGS NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE is pictured after signing an agreement with Chrysler continuing the UAW-CIO Briggs contract in effect until the expiration date in 1955. Seated, L. to R.—: Bob Withers, president local 265; Pat Caruso, vice president Local 212; Art Hughes, assistant Chrysler director; Jess Ferrazza, administrative assistant to Mazey; Emil Mazey, international secretary-treasurer; Ken Morris, president Local 212; and James Cichocki, president Local 742. Standing L. to R.— Dick Williams, Local 265 negotiating committee; Carl Gates, vice president Local 265; Russ Baril, recording secretary Local 212; Frank Kavanaugh, international representative; Steve Despot, financial secretary Local 212; and Frank Pozzi, financial secretary Local 742.

No Lynchings Occur in U. S. For Two Years

WASHINGTON (LPA) — The United States made progress in some areas of race relations in 1953 but still has room for improvement, civil-rights organizations reported.

The best news, according to the Tuskegee Institute, was that the U. S. passed its second calendar year without a lynching. Until 1952 there had been one to 130 lynchings every year since 1882, when records first began to be kept, a recorded total of 4,730.

On the other hand, the institute recorded three attempted lynchings in 1953, in Alabama, Arizona and New York City. Two of the victims were Negroes, the third a Puerto Rican.

"AS LONG AS YOU STAY NON-UNION, SAM, YOUR FUTURE ISN'T WORTH ONE CENT!"

All Is Not What It Seems In President's Farm Message

WASHINGTON — City papers are reporting that the President has proposed a major quick revision in the price support program for agriculture. This is not the case.

Existing law provides that the basic crops shall be supported at 90 per cent of parity through the present year. The farm bloc in Congress wants to vote now to continue that support level through the 1957 crop. The President's proposal would continue 90 per cent of parity supports through the 1955 crop.

The difference between the President and the Congressional farm bloc as of today is only whether they vote now for a one year or three year extension beyond 1954 of the 90 per cent support requirement. Since Congress next year can vote, as it has done several times in recent years, to extend the period of 90 per cent supports, it makes little difference which of the extension plans it votes for in 1954.

BIG DIFFERENCE

That is to say, it makes little difference in practical effect. But in principle the difference is a big one, and there will be a first class row over the Eisenhower program, with agriculture Secretary Benson a likely candidate for retirement to the Sugar Beet Heaven of Utah as a consequence.

Here's where the difference in principle arises. Eisenhower did not come right out and say he wants 90 per cent parity supports to continue through 1955. Quite the contrary. He lambasted the 90 per cent support idea. He said farmers should get lower prices as the best way to make them hold production down. He said consumers were having their food consumption restricted by high farm prices.

Both in his state of the union message and his special farm message he invited city newspapers and city voters to take out after the farmer's program.

PROPOSAL GIMMICK

But while his proposal seemed to call for an end of 90 per cent supports after 1954, there is tucked into it a proposal to put a new label on as much as $22 billion worth of the existing government-held surplus supplies.

This is the gimmick that makes Eisenhower's proposal on price supports mean something quite different than it seems to mean. What he seemed to propose—and what city papers think he proposed—is that price supports on basic crops beginning in 1955 would be reduced below 90 per cent of parity according to a sliding scale formula. This formula provides that the support level in any year shall be lower when supplies are large, and higher when supplies are small.

By labeling a large part of the existing carryover as "special reserves," they would not be used in figuring the support level for 1955 crops. Thus the department of agriculture could continue 1955 supports at 90 per cent of parity, and everyone knows this is exactly what is intended.

ELECTION FIGURES

What would happen on the 1956 crops is less certain. Eisenhower proposes that a new and lower parity calculation go into effect in 1956. This would mean lower supports for that year and could easily mean for wheat, as an example, a 1956 support price of $1.81 as compared with the present support price of $2.44.

It doesn't seem politically plausible that he would want such a thing to happen in an election year. But neither is there any political sense in his proposal to let price supports stay at 90 per cent in 1955 while seeming to say they should go down.

The President's presentation of his case against 90 per cent support is likely to infuriate farmers. Its bid for city support against the present farm program is based on a false statement of fact and a highly misleading inference. It is not true that high support prices on these basic crops have had any real effect on consumption. The truth is that maintenance of farm prosperity has contributed to a general prosperity which has brought about the highest level of food consumption in our history.

FARM PRICES FALL

Nor is it true, as Eisenhower obviously wants city people to believe, that the long postwar rise in food prices is due to the price support program. Despite price supports, farm prices have been falling since February 1951.

Farmers were getting 49 per cent of the consumers food dollar in February 1951 and are getting only 45 per cent today. He made no mention of this.

One explanation for the political stupidities in this farm proposal is that it had to be dreamed up and put together in a hurry. Up until three weeks ago, Benson had intended to propose a so-called "two-price" plan, but Secretary of State Dulles put his foot down because it would involve dumping surplus supplies abroad and raising hell with the trade of other countries.

Sweetie Benson's Heavy Sugar

"The sugar program," says Ike, " is operating in a generally satisfactory manner. It is recommended that this program be continued in its present form," Its present form is the most highly subsidized, regimented scheme of government economics on the statute books. **It is all the things Secretary Benson thinks are degrading for farmers who grow other crops, Benson has an indirect but very large interest in the sugar beet industry**

Sheepish Ike Likes Brannan

The President said 90 per cent of parity price support is not good for basic crops but is all right for wool. And how does he propose to guarantee wool growers that 90 per cent? By letting them sell their wool at whatever the market will bring and then paying them cash to make up the difference between the market price and 90 per cent of parity. This is the Brannan Plan. When that Democrat proposed it the Republicans called it socialism and every other dirty name in their book. Wall Street Journal calls Ike's proposal "the Brannan Plan in sheep's clothing."

The Executive Secretary of the National Wool Marketing Association, John H. Davis, is now Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

CHECK FOR $1,500 was presented to Martin M. Imrisek (right), blind president of UAW Local 484 and past president of the Borg-Warner Council, by Region 4 Director Pat Greathouse (center) on behalf of the "Plant Gate News." Next day, Imrisek and his wife used the money on the mortgage of their Chicago home.

Local 484's Blind Prexy Recalls 'Starry Universe'

CHICAGO, Illinois — "I am sorry, Mr. Imrisek . . . We did everything humanly possible . . . I am very sorry." With these terse words, Martin M. Imrisek, president of UAW-CIO Local 484 (Borg and Beck Division) and past president of the union's Borg-Warner council, learned from his doctor that he was totally blind.

Despite this cruel blow, Imrisek urged the Plant Gate News Publishing Committee, of which he is a member, to continue plans for a banquet to honor the editors and reporters of "Plant Gate News," a cooperative newspaper put out by 39 UAW-CIO locals in the Chicago area.

CHANGE IN PLANS

The Planning Committee followed through with one change. They decided that the banquet proceeds would go to Martin Imrisek to help pay the cost of two major eye operations and his prolonged illness.

The banquet's high point came when Region 4 Director Pat Greathouse, as spokesman for the Publishing Committee, presented Mr. and Mrs. Martin Imrisek with a check for $1,500, including $150 contributed by Vice President Richard Gosser and staff.

Greathouse pointed out Imrisek is still a reporter. His dictated story on how he lost his eyesight was "must" reading for those present. Imrisek wrote:

"This is a personal story—my personal story. It is not intended either to entertain or to enlighten, but rather to provoke serious realization of the blessings with which we are endowed—particularly one . . . No doubt better stories have been written and perhaps many more will be written by newcomers to the ranks like myself. You see, I am blind . . .

'THE APPALLING VASTNESS'

"I particularly remember sitting with my family in the quiet of our backyard on a bright summer night, gazing into the appalling vastness of the starry universe and marvelling somewhat fearfully at the tremendous power of the Creator. I remember autumn in the woods when I gazed upon the miracle wrought by nature which changed a forest of vivid green to a picture of a million different hues . . ."

Imrisek gave fond details of the beautiful sights he remembers, and recalled vividly the "gray fog" which crept over him while he was slowly going blind and going through two eye operations.

After his final operation, Imrisek wrote:

"Many days were to pass before I would be released from the hospital this time. During these eternally long days ponderous questions kept revolving in my mind. I have five children who are still dependent upon me for support. How will I be able to support them, my wife and myself? I own my home . . . I worked hard all my life and saved to buy it. Will I be able to keep it? If I have to sell it, how long will the money last? Where will we go? . . .

"I was released from the hospital on Thursday, April 13, and when I returned home to my family I sensed, in spite of their warm greetings, that their grief was as great as mine. I thought, 'Lord, I am willing to bear my cross and if it be Thy will that my family share it with me, Thy will be done.' . . .

"On Monday, October 5, I received a telephone call from my employer, Borg and Beck, Division of Borg-Warner Corporation, informing me that upon my release by the doctor I could return to work and a suitable job would be found for me."

McCarthy Raps Catholic Weekly

Red-yelling Senator Joe McCarthy is even trying to make the Catholic Church out to be Communist, says Reverend Karl Hubble, chaplain of the Detroit chapter of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists.

McCarthy asserted that *Commonweal,* a Catholic weekly, was "doing a great service to the Communist Party" in criticizing McCarthy's tactics and that "one of its writers refused to say whether he was a Communist."

Father Hubble termed the McCarthy blast "slanderous," saying it "extends the McCarthy logic even to make out his Catholic critics practically subversive to Catholicism. We need look no further for a better example of the slanderous results of McCarthy methods."

ST. PAUL FORD LOCAL 879 opens its new home, located on Ford Parkway. The modern structure provides ample facilities for office space, a directors' meeting room and a spacious auditorium. Shown above (left to right) are: Local 879 President Raymond Busch, F. F. Rondeau, President of Mutual Service Insurance Companies, and Local 879 Secretary-Treasurer Frank J. Widerski.

Local 142 Gets International Aid

The UAW-CIO International Executive Board has placed an administrator over the affairs of UAW Local 142, representing workers at Kaiser-Frazer's Willow Run plant.

UAW Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey, who presided over the board meeting, announced the appointment of Edward Cote, co-director of UAW-CIO Region 1A and director of the union's Kaiser-Frazer Department, as administrator.

The board's action was in compliance with a unanimous request of the officers and executive board of Local 142, who called the problems facing K-F workers as a result of the virtual closing down of K-F operations "far beyond the possibility of solution at the local union level."

Chamber's Attack Boosts GAW Stock

WASHINGTON—The Chamber of Commerce attack on the Guaranteed Annual Wage is a good sign that guaranteed wages soon will be a standard part of collective bargaining agreements, Nat Weinberg, UAW Research Director, said at the Industrial Relations Research Association meeting here last month.

Weinberg told the predominantly management-minded group that the Chamber's pamphlet, "The Economics of the Guaranteed Wage," is essentially the same pamphlet brought out before each new collective bargaining demand becomes a reality.

Terming the pamphlet, "an extraordinary compound of deliberate distortion, intentional confusion and irrelevancy," Weinberg said that labor has found "the greater the volume of nonsense uttered about a new collective bargaining demand," the nearer it is to realization.

He continued:

"The irrelevancy of the pamphlet is obvious from the fact that it nowhere recognizes that current major union proposals for the guaranteed annual wage are in terms of plans which (a) call for reserve fund financing, in whole or in part, and (b) en-

NAT WEINBERG

vision a maximum limitation on the employer's liability, related to employment or payroll levels.

"These aspects of current guaranteed wage proposals are hardly mentioned in the pamphlet. One of the excerpts quoted from the UAW resolution does refer to reserves and there is a passing reference to the idea of limited liability; but Mr. Schmidt (Emerson P. Schmidt, C. of C. Research Director) evidently found it advisable for his purposes to avoid discussion of both subjects.

"Had he come to grips with the issues of maximum liability limitations and reserve fund financing it would have been glaringly apparent that the major portion of the pamphlet has no relevance whatsoever to present day guaranteed wage thinking in union circles. Most of the arguments in the pamphlet implicitly assume the absence of these two features from union proposals.

LIKE OTHER GAINS

"Assuming the worst from the employer's standpoint—that his costs run at the maximum liability level—the effect on his situation would be no different from a wage increase equal in amount to the maximum liability. The effects on the economy, also, would be largely similar to those arising out of a wage increase with the important difference that the resultant additions to consumer purchasing power would be forthcoming mainly when they would make the greatest contribution to economic stability, i.e., in times of widespread layoffs.

He continued, "Under the UAW proposal, however, it is not proper to assume that employers' costs will be equal to the maximum potential liability. Acting individually and collectively employers will be able to hold their costs substantially below the maximum liability level through four separate means.

"The first is by stabilizing employment to the great extent that it lies within their direct power to do so in individual plants. I am sure that not even Mr. Schmidt will argue that there is no such thing as an avoidable layoff. I am equally sure that many layoffs now considered by management to be unavoidable will be discovered to be otherwise when the corporations rather than the workers bear the costs involved.

PRESSURE FOR GOOD

"The second means by which management can reduce guaranteed wage costs is by cooperating in, rather than blocking, efforts to bring about long overdue improvements in unemployment compensation benefit, duration and disqualification provisions. It is appropriate to recall in this connection the revolution that took place in industry's attitude toward Social Security Act pensions following the winning of pension agreements from certain major corporations.

"The third road to cost reduction open to management," Weinberg continued, "is cooperation in the establishment of a sound system of reinsurance designed to reduce the required size of guaranteed wage reserves by spreading as widely as possible the risks of cyclical and other types of unemployment which are beyond the control of the individual management.

"The fourth method is by supporting, rather than opposing, national policies designed to maintain full employment and, conversely, by refraining from pressing for measures that can lead only to instability, economic contraction and unemployment. In this connection the current situation on the tax front provides a good example of the economic stupidities into which blind greed can lead otherwise intelligent men.

"While defense spending by government and investment expenditures by business are both declining, the Chamber of Commerce and its allies demand more taxes on consumption. The guaranteed wage should help to improve industry's economic vision by reducing and perhaps wiping out whatever immediate gains may presently be obtainable by a small minority through such shortsighted policies."

That Ike Buck

NEW YORK (LPA)—A dollar in terms of 1939 purchasing power was worth 54.6 cents in October, the National Industrial Conference Board reported Dec. 8. That's the Eisenhower administration's "sound dollar." In October, 1952, under Truman, the dollar was worth 55.1 cents. Thus Ike's "sound dollar" is 0.9 percent under Truman's dollar.

Burt on Unity Board

OTTAWA — The executive council of the Canadian Congress of Labor has named a committee of four to meet with a similar committee from the Trades and Labor Congress to explore the possibilities of labor unity. Named to the committee were President A. R. Mosher; Donald MacDonald, secretary-treasurer; George Burt, director of UAW-CIO Region 7, and C. H. Millard, of the United Steelworkers.

As Retired Workers Frolic

THIS KITCHEN BAND helped entertain the more than 4,400 UAW-CIO old timers who attended the Retired Workers' Holiday Party, December 29, in the Agricultural Building at the Michigan State Fair Grounds. One of the biggest parties of its kind ever held any place, there was still plenty of fun, food and refreshments for the entire group.

SOME RETIRED WORKERS, who helped build the Union, with an old friend, Emil Mazey, Secretary Treasurer of the UAW-CIO at the Holiday Party.

Why Trim Check?

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Professor Herman Gray, authority on arbitration and professor of Public Administration at New York University, says in the winter issue of the Arbitration Journal that in reinstatement with back pay awards it is no concern of the arbitrator whether the worker has collected unemployment compensation.

Professor Gray notes that some arbitrators have on occasion deducted unemployment payments from back-pay awards. He claims this is wrong because the state makes the jobless payments, not the employer, and the employer would enjoy "unwarranted enrichment."

It is Professor Gray's contention that arbitrators should leave the subject alone.

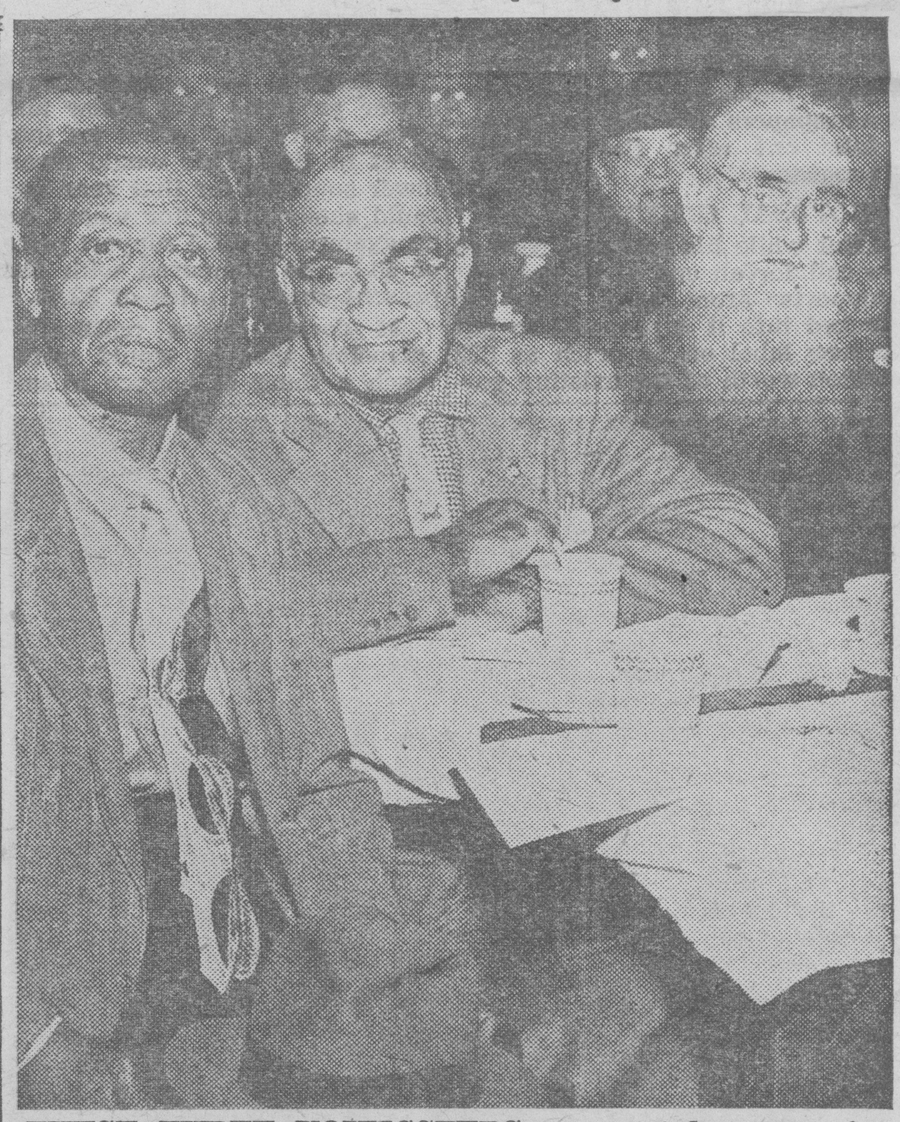
CIO Gets Behind Freedom Crusade

CIO President Walter P. Reuther announced that the CIO Executive Committee has "voted its wholehearted approval and support for the Crusade for Freedom."

In a letter to Clyde Vandeburg, executive director of the American Heritage Foundation, which is conducting the Crusade for Freedom, Reuther said:

"The leaders and members of the CIO and its affiliated bodies have long been aware of the tremendous need for the peoples of the free world to talk directly to the millions of people in the satellite nations who are isolated behind the Iron Curtain.

"In Radio Free Europe, we see an excellent medium for bringing the precious words of liberty and freedom to the restless millions of people under the yoke of Soviet-dominated Communist totalitarianism."



THESE THREE YOUNGSTERS may not be young in years, but they are young in that good old Union Spirit! The oldest retired man at the shindig was 82, and the oldest retired woman was 79. How's that for keeping up your Union activities?

Douglas to Seek 2nd Senate Term

CHICAGO (LPA) — Senator Paul H. Douglas (D, Ill.), one of labor's favorite members of Congress, announced recently that he will be a candidate next year for a second term.

"Personal inclinations have suggested an easier and more pleasant type of life," Douglas said, "but the acute problems of the times have shaped my present resolution."

He said he had found during a recent tour of Illinois that the farmer fears he will have no steady market for his crops, the workingman fears his job will not last, and the businessman fears he may suddenly have no buyers. These fears, Douglas said, "can only be decreased by effective action against the economic problems that underlie them."

Watered-Down Seaway Bill Stands Chance of Passage

WASHINGTON — First bill to be debated by the Senate in this session is slated to be the Wiley Bill (S. 2150) for U. S. participation in construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Friends of the measure look for a victory by two votes. They had victory in the bag last session also, but lost it when Wyoming's two Democratic Senators, Hunt and O'Mahoney, made a last minute switch.

Foes of the Seaway will make a long fight. One of them, Butler of Maryland, has threatened a filibuster. He is in the Senate largely because of the "back alley" campaign masterminded for him by Wisconsin's McCarthy.

The Wiley Bill is a twice compromised version of the original St. Lawrence Seaway and power project proposal. First the power project was scrapped as a federal venture. This has now been turned over to Governor Dewey's New York Power Authority which has promised to distribute the power in ways the private utilities approve.

Next, the original Seaway project was cut in two at Lake Erie. The Wiley Bill does not provide for deepening the channel through the Detroit, St. Clair and St. Mary's rivers to take ocean going tonnage to the head of the lakes. As the bill stands, it serves the purposes of the Ohio steel interests, but leaves for future action the hopes of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois to engage in ocean borne trade.

Senator Humphrey (D., Minn.) will offer an amendment to add the river channel projects to the Wiley Bill. If the amendment fails, hope for the channels will rest on some future rivers and harbors bill (the annual pork barrel legislation with something for everybody, geographically speaking) to assign the task to the Army Engineers.

United States share of the cost under the Wiley Bill is estimated at $95 million; Canada's cost, $190 million. Revenue bonds will be sold to investors to raise the U. S. ante. These will be serviced and retired out of toll revenues from the Seaway.

Here's what the man said . . . but . . . OOPS!!

We are convinced that substantial improvements are needed in the unemployment insurance system to make it a better shield against economic reversals. Not only as a matter of providing greater dignity and decency to the wage earner without a job but also to maintain him as an active buyer in the market during his period of unemployment, both the benefit rate and the duration of benefits need to be increased, which I expect will be recommended to the next Congress. The present unemployment insurance reserve can become a great force to prevent a downward spiral if the benefit structure permits a substantial part of that reserve to be released if it is needed. It cannot be released unless the rate and duration of benefits are increased significantly.

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For just one precious, fleeting moment the Eisenhower administration teetered on the brink of doing a service to workers.

Speaking of increased unemployment compensation to the UAW-CIO Full Employment Conference in Washington, Secretary of Labor Mitchell said, "**. . . both the benefit rate and the duration of benefits needed to be increased which I expect will be recommended to the next Congress.**"

He DID say it! He DID!! He read it off just like it was written in the **first** speech (see above cut).

Then the eggs hit the electric fan. Mitchell was asked if Congress was going to be asked to establish federal standards of benefits—like he said—where there are none at all now.

Wheels turned, conferees conferred — and Wall Street trembled until additional battalions could be hurled into the breach to save States Rights and Free Enterprise.

Manfully, The Team rallied.

Labor Department spokesmen said Mitchell read the wrong speech!! What he meant was, they said, was that the Administration would ask, please, if the STATES would raise benefits.

Except for a copy of the "wrong" speech (see same cut above) obtained by daring agents of the UAW, Mitchell's now-famous quotation would have been comparable to the name of Beria in Soviet history books (see cut of **revised** speech at right above).

Matthews Blasts Chrysler For White (Slip) Christmas

Chrysler Corporation's Christmas present to thousands of employees — white layoff slips — drew an angry blast from UAW Chrysler Department Director Norman Matthews who assailed the Corporation's policy of concentrating production in the first half of the year.

Matthews, co-director of UAW Region 1, issued the following statement:

'RECKLESS' SCHEDULING

"The new layoffs of more than 9,200 Chrysler workers—added to the thousands already laid off—just before Christmas is the product of Chrysler Corporation's reckless and irresponsible over-scheduling of production during the first half of 1953.

"When Walter Reuther wrote the Corporation on May 11 calling attention to this over-scheduling and pointed out the possibility of 'substantial layoffs and widespread hardship in the automobile, truck and parts industries during the second half of 1953,' the Corporation smugly replied, 'We believe we can serve our employees, our stockholders and the public best by . . . doing everything we can to make high quality products at competitive prices **in the numbers people want them at the time people want them.**' (Emphasis is mine.)

"The widespread layoffs which the Union feared and of which we warned have also taken place at Hudson, Packard and other manufacturers in the Detroit area. Like Chrysler, they took a smug, complacent view of the situation. And again like Chrysler, they were also tragically mistaken or intentionally misleading with their bland assurances of a favorable employment climate in the months ahead.

"When I wrote the Chrysler Corporation on October 9 to complain of the widespread short work weeks, Chrysler replied that the short work weeks were the result of the changeover to 1954 models, and added that it expected 'to continue operating on the basis of 40 hours a week provided we receive a full flow of material from our vendors and provided our production is not interrupted by other causes.' Today the Chrysler Corporation, with its changeover to 1954 models completed, has not only laid off an additional 9,200 workers, but it has also scheduled 3 and 4 day weeks for thousands of those still at work for the remainder of December.

NO TOYS PROVIDED

"On December 9, I again wrote the Corporation protesting its complete disregard for the welfare of Chrysler workers and demanding, on their behalf, that Chrysler rescind the layoffs and assure the workers full holiday pay checks. The Corporation spokesman replied, 'We are all very sorry that it was necessary to lay off Chrysler employees, particularly at this time.'

"The Corporation's regrets will put no toys under the Christmas tree or any turkey on the table. The Chrysler workers' resources have been reduced to nothing by virtually continuous short work weeks since July of this year. And now thousands have been put out onto the streets. We wonder if the Corporation's publicity and advertising men have some suggestions as to what these workers can tell their children on Christmas morning.

"On behalf of the UAW-CIO and the Chrysler workers, I protest most bitterly this cruel, inhuman and unnecessary treatment of workers by the Corporation and renew the Union's demand that these laid-off workers be returned to their jobs while the Corporation earnestly seeks to learn how to run its business in a humane and socially responsible manner."

"NIX, POP! I CAN'T LET YOU OPERATE MY EQUIPMENT IF YOU DON'T CARRY A UNION CARD!"

Local 180 Maintains Strength For Showdown with J. I. Case

RACINE, Wis.—The battle-scarred UAW-CIO members of the J. I. Case plant in this union town are preparing for a showdown with one of America's "stone age" farm machinery companies.

Veterans of a 14½ month strike in 1946, the members of Local 180 have not rested in their fight for a decent contract. The bitter '46 strike saw J. I. Case slip from No. 2 spot in farm machinery output to No. 4.

HIT CASE HARD

During the strike, sales of Case tractors took a beating. The company has never recovered, even though the union has urged J. I. Case to enter the production of lucrative road building equipment.

As *The Auto Worker* goes to press, Local 180's bargaining committee was holding its 55th meeting since the last contract expired. Even without a contract for the past 15 months, over 85 per cent of the Case workers in the Racine plants are paid up members of the local.

This remarkable union loyalty dates back to the founding of the International Union when Local 180 got a pioneer charter from the UAW-CIO on September 23, 1936.

A scrapbook bulging with clippings traces the militant history of Local 180 from its beginnings, its help in the Ford drive, through its famed strike, up to the present attempt to nail down a decent contract.

Harvey Kitzman, Region 10 director, was an early president of the local.

CASE KEEPS TRYING

The company still sends out tons of anti-union, anti-Fair Deal propaganda into union homes. Movies are shown on company time which makes fun of laws written to protect and advance the cause of working people. Union safety and bargaining committees have to meet after hours.

But J. I. Case workers have a union which is the envy of many well-established UAW-CIO locals. A credit union is formly rooted in the life of the Case membership. Turnout at monthly meetings is high.

Tony Valeo, Local 180 president, sums up the situation this way:

"We've promised our members we'll use every possible way to get a good contract by peaceful means over the bargaining table. Our committee has met with the company for over 110 hours after regular working hours in the shop trying to get the kind of contract which is a standard in the rest of the farm machinery plants in the UAW-CIO."

The nosedive in farm machinery sales during 1953 has caused a wave of layoffs in the Case plants. More than 800 Case workers in Racine, some with more than 5 years' seniority, are out of work today. Employment has dropped from a peak of 3,000 in 1951 to a present day employment of 1,500 in the Racine Main Works and Tractor Works.

Business Week, an industry magazine, recently singled out J. I. Case common stock as an example of a "blue chips" investment. While Case stockholders prosper, J. I. Case labor relations are notoriously behind the times.

SLIPPING COMPANY

More impressive is the record of Case's next door neighbor, Massey-Harris. While Case's official medicine men tour the nation peddling outmoded labor relations, Massey-Harris has accepted the Union and concentrated on getting along and getting sales. As a result Case's arch rival now holds No. 3 spot in the industry.

Case committee holds 55th meeting as negotiations for a new contract passed the 15 month mark. The bargaining committee for Local 180 is pictured here under the local's slogan "We've Got to Score in '54." From left to right, front row: Arthur Skibb, William Geb, Tony De Laat, George Ortwig, and Elmer St. Mary. Back row: Charles Chiakulas, international representative, William Walton, Al Price, Tony Valeo, bargaining committee chairman, and Orval Anderson.

Reuther Urges Action To Prevent Depression

The following is the text of UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther's New Year's statement for 1954.

On this New Year's Day 1954, millions of members of the CIO and their families—a great segment of democratic America—extend their greetings to all the people of our country.

Devoted to the best ideals of democracy and firmly opposed to the false ideologies of Communism or any other form of totalitarianism, we are resolved that in the year ahead, our energies, our strength and our collective intelligence will be used to help build a better America for all its citizens.

The people of America and the world face the New Year with a common hope for peace and prosperity, for freedom and brotherhood. Yet, they also are plagued by great uncertainty as to whether 1954 will be a year of human advancement or retrogression for the civilizations of the free people.

The threat of possible Soviet aggression still plagues the democratic peoples of the world. The cease-fire in Korea, because of the obstructive tacts of the Soviet government and its satellites, has not been translated into a lasting peace. In every land, there is an underlying horror that mankind may be destroyed by atomic or hydrogen warfare.

* * *

Here in the United States, there is uncertainty as to whether America may continue to enjoy the multiple blessings of full employment. Men of little vision, who would have us believe that depression is normal and prosperity is merely good luck, talk of the inevitability of recession or depression.

Millions of working men and women are plagued by the fear that their jobs and their income—their shares in America's prosperity and abundance—may be snatched away by a depression as unnecessary as it will be cruel.

We who treasure our civil liberties and the concept of equal rights for every American regardless of race, creed or color, are disturbed by the growing recklessness of the attacks on our priceless American heritage. An unprecedented atmosphere of fear, suspicion and hysteria is abroad in America.

At a time when we should be pre-eminent among the forces of freedom throughout the world, free peoples in other countries are confused and bewildered about the future of American policy. Our leadership of the forces of freedom, leadership based on human resources and spirit and upon industrial might, are open to challenge among other peoples because of the lack of faith in America by those Americans who fear civil liberties and civil rights, by those Americans who fear full employment and prosperity.

We in the CIO believe that we have to be strong economically, we have to be strong militarily, but we have to be strong in terms of these basic spiritual and moral values, because power without morality is power without purpose. That is why we need to give greater consideration on the home front in America to putting our own house in order, so that we can stand before the world as a symbol worthy of free men and their loyalties.

* * *

We in the CIO are not acting as a narrow economic pressure group, because we cannot answer our problems unless we help answer the problems of all of our people. But while we try to develop these common denominators of joint action, we will raise our voice and we will mobilize our power to fight against vested interests, to fight against intolerance, to fight against discrimination, and to fight against every ugly manifestation in our national life, because we believe, and we believe this sincerely, that we can win in the world and that freedom and peace can be made secure only if we first make them secure in America for all the people in America. That is our task.

The program of the CIO in 1954 will be one devoted to placing the benefits of our great technology at the disposal of all the people so that all may share in the abundance that America can produce. To accomplish this, we shall fight to maintain and to expand the high wage levels which have been the glory of the American people for decades. Through high wages and only through high wages, can the American people buy the tremendous output of our factories, mines and mills — and only through high purchasing power can American industry and agriculture find the great domestic market it needs to achieve a constantly raising level of high production.

The unions of the CIO will strive to obtain a guaranteed annual wage as aid and assistance to a functioning economy in order to provide incentives for keeping men at work rather than incentives for laying them off. We shall fight for strengthening civil liberties and for a civil rights program that will move against discrimination based on race, creed or color, wherever it raises its ugly head.

In Washington and state capitols, we shall lend our support to every worthwhile effort to produce better social welfare legislation so that the millions of less fortunate American families may obtain protection and help from their government.

And we shall carry on our endeavor to organize the unorganized in order to bring to all eligible workers the real and tangible benefits that spring from democratic unions, sound collective bargaining and good citizenship.

We are confident that in 1954, the forces of evil will be beaten back on every front. We are confident that as the New Year unfolds, we can, as we must, move toward world peace, toward world prosperity, toward world democracy.

In that quest for a better life, America can count upon the CIO as a front rank fighter for a better future for all the people.

LOCAL 604 MEMBER John Bednarchik (left) receives award check for $935.31 (less tax deductions) from Local 604 President Ira Thurber. The umpire in the case, Dr. Harry Shulman, decided that the Bendix Corporation subsidiary, Eclipse Machine, was guilty in not rehiring Bednarchik after a prolonged sick leave.

Hope for Charlene

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Charlene Bozarth's parents got the Christmas present they wanted—a medical miracle.

While her mother, Oma, prepared to spend her last Christmas with her doomed 9-year-old daughter, and Mrs. Bozarth's co-workers in the Douglas Aircraft plant here laid plans to make Charlene's Christmas the biggest a child could know, the miracle took place.

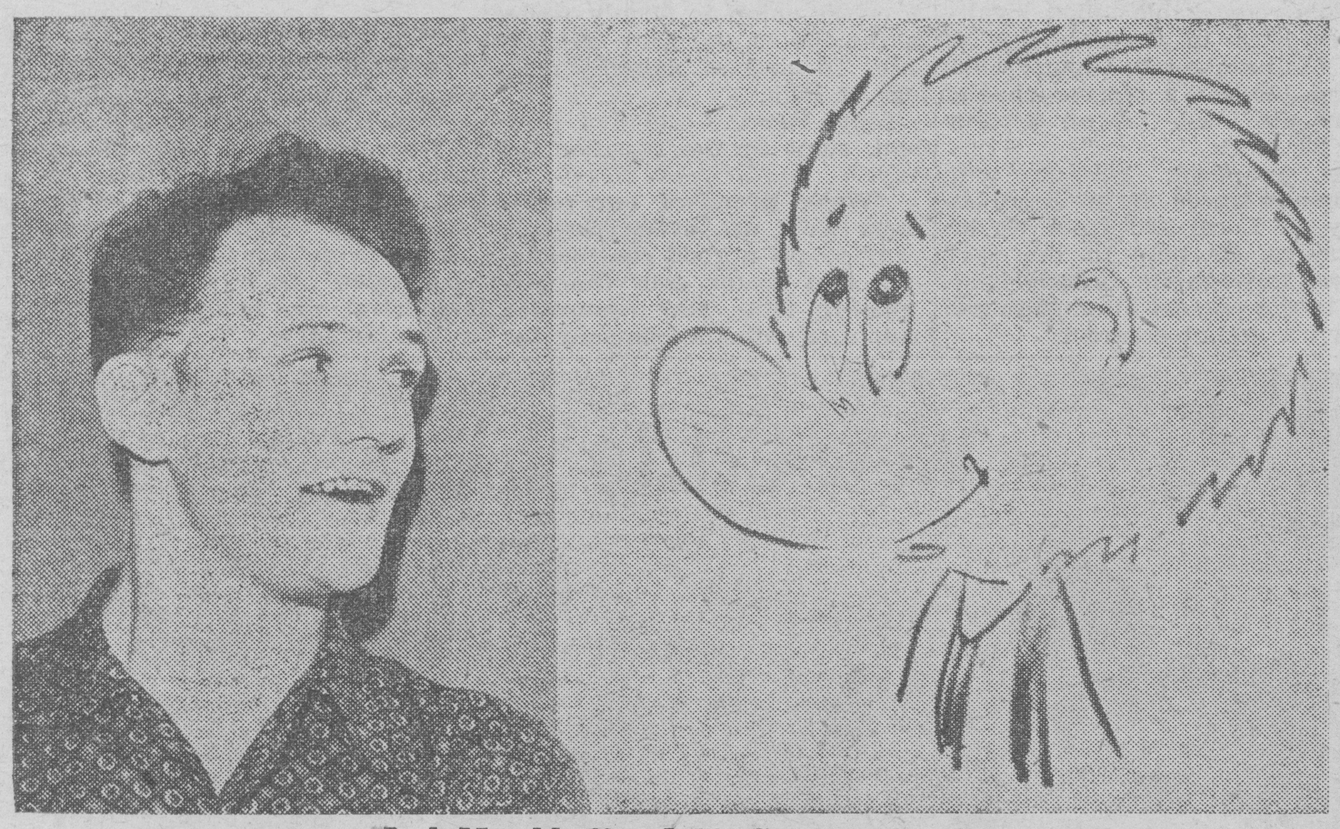
Only one Cobalt Radiation machine exists in this country. The Los Angeles Tumor and Cancer Clinic has it. The clinic gave Charlene a series of desperation treatments for her brain tumor.

The paralysis in her face started to subside. She began to feed herself. In fact, she felt so much better that on Christmas Day she was able to play with the dolls and the 'real Western outfit' Santa Claus and some 'real cowboys from UAW Local 148 brought her.

Mrs. Bozarth, who has been with her daughter since the members of Local 148 raised $1,000 to finance her leave of absence, received some other Christmas presents.

But the one which overwhelmed her was the newborn hope for Charlene's recovery.

UAW Artist Goes Pogo



Jack Maschhoff and his Cartoon Friend.

WASHINGTON — When Walt Kelly, creator of the popular "Pogo" comic strip and author of the best seller, "I Go Pogo," spoke here last month, some of the nation's top advertising executives tried to get Pogo. Only UAW-CIO artist Jack Machhoff made his bid for Pogo stick.

Kelly made drawings of most of the characters from "Pogo" in his talk before the Washington Advertising Club. Maschhoff, in Washington for the UAW-CIO Full Employment Conference, managed to attend through some maneuvering on the part of the company hanging the Conference decorations.

After Kelly's talk, the master of ceremonies had everyone present write his name and business connection on a card.

"We'll have a drawing for these Kelly drawings," he punned faintly.

Maschhoff, only man present without a necktie, filled in his card.

As each name was drawn, the club members burst into loud Rotarian-type applause. The M. C. would say things like, "This is Joe Doakes of the Doakes Agency," and for reasons know best to Rotarians and advertising club members the rest of the members would start beating their hands together and cheering.

The executives picked up drawings of lesser character like Churchy LaFem and Albert the Alligator and Ol' Miz Beaver amid loud handclaps. But they didn't get Pogo.

Then the master of ceremonies drew another name from the hat and boomed out, "Jack Mas . . . Jack Mas . . . Jack Mash Hoff." He studied a moment and quietly added, "of the UAW-CIO."

Here and there a few brave souls broke the sudden silence with polite handclaps.

"But I really didn't mind that," Maschhoff points out. "You see, I got Pogo."

Kent Plastic Story— A History of Viciousness

After reading "The Kent Plastics Story," a leaflet put out by UAW-CIO Region 3, the average worker must wonder, "Is it possible for these things to actually happen in the U. S. A. during the mid-Twentieth Century?" or "did these events take place in Malenkov's paradise behind the Iron Curtain — Soviet Russia?"

This pamphlet gives a graphic account of what a Union-busting employer—Kent Plastics Corporation in Evansville, Indiana—can and actually has done to thwart the desires of their employees for a Union of their own choice to represent them for collective bargaining purposes.

Since 1947, it relates a series of actions by Kent Plastics brass solely designed to intimidate their workers and otherwise hamstring the Union organization of these workers.

It was a vicious campaign of spying, terror, intimidating workers, firing active Union members, raving and ranting before captive worker audiences, and promising larger bonuses and pay increases to influence their employees against the Union.

Undoubtedly it did have some effect, as the pamphlet notes, because on December 10, 1952 the UAW-CIO lost the Kent election by an extremely close score of 166 to 164. Naturally, the UAW filed protests with the NLRB over the Company's tactics, and cited five counts for protest in its brief.

Since the election, the Regional Director of the NLRB recommended a new election, the Board ordered a new hearing, the NLRB hearing officer recommended a new election, and as of this date the Kent workers are waiting for a final decision from the National Labor Relations Board in Washington. They won't be fooled this time.

News Gets Oscar

CHICAGO — The Community Fund has awarded an "Oscar" to the *Plant Gate News,* shop publication of 39 Chicago area UAW-CIO locals for its promotion of the 1953 Community Fund drive. Andrew Scolastico, associate editor of Local 9, UAW-CIO, (Chicago Screw Co. plant in Bellwood, Illinois) received the plaque from Robert E. Coburn, Associate Executive Director.

Stitches

"That Senator hates unions — rather go like that than wear a suit with an Amalgamated Union Label."