301 Committees
Named for 1949

Appointments of the following standing committees were approved by the 1949 convention of the membership and the State Council Tuesday night, in accordance with the Constitution of the State Council:

Committee Composition: Frank B. Ives, Chairman; Horace Whitten, Vice Chairman; John B. Hill, Secretary; Earl Thomas, Treasurer; George W. Deitz, M. W. Deitz, Jr., and William J. L. de W. E. W. Deitz, Jr.


Committee Agenda:

- To coordinate the activities of the committees
- To report on the progress of the committees
- To discuss any other matters that may be brought to the attention of the committee

New Year Commenced with Prices Still Rising
As Republicans and Truman Stall on Problem

There's no relief in sight from high prices. The U. S. Commission on Labor Statistics admitted that 1948 ended with retail prices still rising and "no indication of a break." He predicted that "unemployment will go over 1 million."

Both the Truman Administration and the Republican party are in the special session of Congress and without seriously looking at the high cost of living. The cheap Republicans "price" bill which President Truman finally signed gives four paths to escape and are responsible for today's high prices. These are: (a) prices not too high, (b) prices not too low, (c) prices not too high, and (d) prices not too low.

Both Democrats and Republicans have introduced new bills, all aimed at Congress, but there's no sign that the session will produce any real price control. The price is too high for any real price control.

Truman Program

In November, President Truman proposed a $1 billion "price-control" program which would give him power to freeze wages and prices of products applied to prices in the future. It didn't work for a price rollback or for taxing excess profits of Big Business.

The conservative party's answer, L. A. Livingston, whose articulated position in the Conservative Union, said recently that "you can now write off" of the president's program as "Mr. Truman's own bad luck." Livingston pointed out that Mr. Truman himself had held a press conference that price controls was a "political" sale.

"Not only four weeks later he was to ask Congress for authority to impose price controls if necessary," Livingston said.

As a result, the president bought a bill of good things. But apparently, it didn't sell the rice who had to sell Congress. The president himself didn't want it for Georgia.

NAM Program

The National Association of Manufacturers' plan that prices are high because people have too much money. The NAM workers, working with other groups, want to keep prices down in spite of inflation by the Federal Reserve System's and the government's actions in Congress. This report will be delayed because the super-OPA is still in its second two weeks of a 14-week plan.

GE Efficiency

Frozen Stiff

An OPA order was issued in the form of a bill of 151.A. Tuesday, but here's the news:

Complaint was made to the workers management of the company's sale of metal and broken rules. The complaint is now under investigation. If the company's order of the work, the workers will be notified. The workers will be notified. The workers will be notified. The workers will be notified.

To Collect for Polio

Savings for the March of Dimes polio drive will be handled by Executive Board members at their meeting Monday night. Board members will give the envelopes to key workers for collection in the plant. The deadline for the donations is Feb. 17.

Washington's Birthday

The March of Dimes will meet at 11:30 p.m. Thursday at 301 Hall.
$546 Collection
For Joseph Giello
A contribution of $546 from the following local union members in the Fishing, 36th Division (Wigs), 51st and 52nd was taken Tuesday to Joseph Giello at Ellis Hospital by a detachment of 36th mem-
ers. Giello lost his right forearm in a pinch press in 1957. It was the third trip, Jan. 14.
Board Member Michael Tindall, Steve and James Morgan, Josie Gregory, and Michael Fenton took up the collection.

Local GE Directed To Apply Step Rates
The national GE management has given instructions to the local works manage-
ment to apply step rate plans, which increased a number of timing rates, to table B, in accordance with the recent settlements of that dispute.

James W. Sturman told the local manage-
ment that it should "take immediate steps to change all existing rate plan tables" to reflect the new rates, and to implement the new table, having existing rates in accordance with.

The adjustment will apply to all employees on new work set by competition, when the new rate was in effect.

Several men from the department told the author that they expected this announcement to be made, and the impact on the employees was immediate.

Volunteers Asked
For Blood Donations
A number of GE employees, with ob-
ligations to make blood donations at the local hospital, have volunteered to continue as members of the local GE Blood Program.

The program is being conducted in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

Union Publicity
An appropriation for public rela-
tions campaigns in connection with the 36th Division was voted by the Local 366 membership at the last meeting.

The appropriation was in recognition of the efforts of the Executive Board.

Third Week Of Vacation
A vacation policy provides that if a man is entitled to a vacation, he may make it during any three-week period in the year or when the strike is in progress.

A. C. Bowers recently notified the members of the local that he would take his three-week vacation, instead of during the strike.

Bowers said the arrangement was made on the basis of mutual agreement.

GE Contract Settled
Contract negotiations with GE are expected to start during February in New York City.

Food Center Report Approved By Local
Members of Local 301 using the un-
ion's food center are saving from $2 to $5 a week since their food bill, the 301 Food Committee reported to the mem-
bership meeting Jan. 20.

The report, which was read by James C. Gauthier, chairman, pointed out that the key to the success of the center was the cooperation of the members.

C. G. Collier, secretary-treasurer of Local 301, said, "The key to the success of the center is the cooperation of the members."

The report emphasized the importance of cooperation with the center's staff and the need for members to use the center on a regular basis.

Grievance Case Filed
On Veteran's Service
The union is challenging the right of a Navy veteran, Charles L. Chamberlain, to an unemployment service record.

Although he applied for work three times at the locomotive plant and three times at the Port Edward plant during the 90 days after his dis-
charge from military service, Chamber-


301 Attorney's Hours
Richard:any 301 attorney's hours have been established.

The hours are available for consultation with clients.

The hours are available for consultation with clients. However, they are subject to change.

Make your shop 100% US
More 301 Shop Stewards Take Their Oath of Office

United States Had Effective Price Control During War; Here's a Step-by-Step Reminder of How It Was Killed

301 Member Loses His Home in Fire

Death of Mrs. Bartholomew

New Tune — Old Song

Wilson's Vice-President Speaks

Last in Wages, First in Prices

Leading - Who?

GE Wages and GE Prices

Who's Fighting Inflation?

Facts versus Mr. Boulware's Line

"General Electric Leads in Price Cuts" was Mr. Boulware's New Year's headline.

What are the facts behind that announcement? They need to be examined—particularly since only three days after Mr. Boulware published a page of congratulations to GE, a federal grand jury in Los Angeles accused General Electric, Westinghouse, and eight other companies of a conspiracy to keep prices HIGH on electrical equipment sold to public utilities. And prices to public utilities go directly into our cost of living—we all use light and gas.

Wilson's Vice-President Speaks

Mr. Boulware is Charlie Wilson's new vice-president in charge of labor relations. His "price cut" publicity bluntly asked GE workers not only to "forego any further pay increase demands," but even to "help us save at least 5% on labor costs. All this supposedly to 'stop inflation,'" "for the good of all."

The "price cut" announcement is intended to back up the National Association of Manufacturers' theme song—that wage increases are responsible for high prices, that the way for workers to live better is to work harder and get paid less.

(Do you remember that other NAM theme song of 1946 — remove price controls and prices will come down?)

"The record of GE's price policy does tell a story about wages, prices and inflation. Let's get the real facts:

Last in Wages, First in Prices

On April 28, 1947, GE, last major company to settle on the UE's 15-cent "package" increases, was the first to push inflation by announcing a 6 to 17 percent price rise on all products. The union said this was unnecessary. Evidently GE's competitors thought so too. They did not follow suit until some months later. GE's announcement on December 12 that its current contracts allow price increases up to 20% on generators, turbines, and other heavy electrical goods got very little newspaper space. Its 12 percent rate on radio tubes the same month was not given to the press at all. It leaked out later.

For all 1947, even without the two increases, GE admits an increase of 20 percent in prices (New York Herald Tribune, December 22, 1947)."
And the result for GE—an all-time record profit of $75,000,000—20.8 percent on investment.

So now we have an average 5% reduction on refrigerators, ranges, washers, electric blankets, television sets. For example, on standard wringer type washers, which sold for $25.95 in May 1941, and in 1947 sold for a minimum of $29.75. An increase of $59.80, and a reduction of $6.50.

Did GE really cut prices on these appliances to "stop inflation"?

The Real Reason

For the last two months of 1947 the business press, the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Journal of Commerce, Business Week, had been reporting selling difficulties, competition, "consumer resistance to high-priced gadgets" on electric ranges. And GE was out of line with its competitors. So one


"The reductions, among other things, served to bring GE into line."

GE led the parade for inflation by pushing prices up beyond the reach of the people. Now it brings some prices down a little, for the only reason it knows, to keep on selling. Price increases are NOT caused by wage increases. When Big Business busted price control, it raised prices by many times the amount of wage increases. It would have done so if there had been NO wage increases. For their only guide in setting prices is "All that the traffic will bear."

Big Business pushes prices up just as long as people will buy, regardless of wage costs. It will stop when people can't buy, when it's too late to do you and me any good. That's what led to the big depression of 1929. And because food, automobiles, electrical appliances, and just about everything is controlled by a handful of big trusts, there is very little competition left. Prices are pushed up fast, but come down very slowly.

The danger to the country today is that purchasing power cannot keep up with production—because of record prices and profits.

Wage increases will not affect prices. They will offset to some extent the hardship of high prices. They will lessen the danger from the depression which Big Business profiteering is bringing on.

Mr. Boulware's Weekly Dose

Of NAM Propaganda

The National Association of Manufacturers spent millions of dollars in propaganda to kill price control, win huge tax refunds for GE and the rest; and put the Taft-Hartley law. Today it spends more millions to sell its line to churches, schools, small business men, women's clubs, doctors, lawyers, and particularly to the workers themselves. It's the line that workers will be well off if they accept low wages for themselves, higher prices and profits for their employers, and a speed-up called "productivity." This line brought on 1929, but people are supposed to forget that, Mr. Boulware pours this out weekly in the Works News, in full-page advertisements, in the radio. We cannot match the cost or quantity of stuff. But union members can recognize the methods—telling half-truths so that they become untrue. We can meet half-truths with the FACTS. For example:

Mr. Boulware says wartime savings are pushing prices up. He does not say that the top 30 percent of the people have 87 percent of the savings; the lowest 30 percent have NO savings. That is the Federal Reserve Board's finding.

Mr. Boulware says workers should "produce more...with same effort." He does not say that GE wants more effort through speed-up, with carboby tools.

Mr. Boulware says "conquer inflation" through "increased production." He does not say that prices went up HIGHEST where production went up most (matt, electrical appliances), because trusts largely control meat packing and electrical appliances.

Always Against Wage Raises

Mr. Boulware says the wage increases were cancelled out by price increases. He does not say that the prices were going up and would have gone up regardless. Mr. Boulware says it is okay to pay lower wages in some GE plants than in others. He does not say that the difference in living costs between Lexington, Kentucky and Cleveland, Ohio, is very small, but the difference in basic wages is 24 cents an hour. GE sells lamps for the same price whether made in Cleveland or Lexington. And the newer plant rates threaten standards and jobs in the older plants.

Mr. Boulware says GE makes only 7 cents on a "sales dollar." He does not say that this "sales dollar" already had paid other super-profits to trusts all along the line.

The biggest fallacy of all is the phony "impartial poll," which misrepresents the Taft-Hartley act, and "proves" that it is what the workers want. So you are to believe that the NAM, which fought social security, unemployment insurance, the 40-hour week, child labor laws, the Wagner Act, price control, now wants the Taft-Hartley act for "the good" of the workers! Every provision of the act is aimed against unions.

The people's welfare is threatened by the current inflation—prices racing ahead of purchasing power—wages.

Big Business and its Boulware fight FOR inflation. UE fights inflation in every way, political action, for price control, against Taft-Hartley—and Just Now by Demanding

A Substantial Wage Increase