Father Masse Praises Wage Program of CIO

Demands of the CIO for substantial wage increases are not merely justified, the Rev. Benjamin L. Masse, associate editor of the Jesuit periodical, "America," told a CIO conference in Albany. The priest was a speaker at a round table discussion of the CIO wage program, and the Italian report, arranged by the state CIO Council on the H. W. Clinton Hotel.

Wage Increases Needed

A large number of American workers are not receiving enough wages, in relation to prices, to provide a decent standard of living for themselves and their families, Father Masse said.

Living costs would be the best way of measuring the depression, he declared, but there apparently is no hope of industry and business taking any such step, the only alternative is to seek higher wages.

He praised the CIO for presenting facts and figures in a thoughtful, measurable way, as the basis of its wage negotiations, instead of making "air-dropped" threats to management. He recommended the National report in wages, prices and profits.

For these reasons, the public should support the CIO wage program, Father Masse said.

The increase is needed to maintain a decent standard of living for the workers.

Industry can pay the increases out of its great profits without increasing prices.

The pay increase will contribute to the good of the American people as a whole.

National Report Praises All other speakers at the conference found fault with the employer's approach to the wage problem. Taking part in the executive sessions were Norman A. Grady, director of the advisory board of the Steel Strike Federal Advisory Council; James R. Carey, national CIO secretary; James J. O'Brien, New York business man; Mrs. H. B. S. O'Brien, executive secretary of the National Labor Council; and Arthur Wright, of the National Defense Union.

Local 311 was represented by President Joseph J. Jodice, and Business Agent Louis L. Jacobson, and UEF District 8 by Jerry Bremner, P.M. Mathews and Mike Lafferty. The following 311 members represented the Capital District:

Producers Brand New Offer

The 1948 sales (before deducting taxes) are estimated at 108 million dollars, James M. Stevens, U.S. director of aggregation, reported to the CIO Conference Board.

This figure is based on the sales for the first nine months of the year and an estimate for the last three months.

After taxes are deducted, money not available for the pension system and other purposes, there's a profit of 27 million dollars left.

That's a jump of 20 per cent over the 1941 profit of 36 million dollars.

Company Will Face NLRB Hearing Today

The General Electric Co. has been ordered to appear on a Saturday before a National Labor Relations Board hearing in New York City to answer charges of withholding union dues from the pay of employees.

The union practices in its treatment of workers after last winter's strike.

When U.S. court ordered the strike with the 18th percent increase victory, GE ordered into an agreement with the union that there would be no discrimination against the returned strikers.

The union has charged the company with having failed to meet the labor practices in violation of that pledge.

The company disagreed with the union and refused to meet the nine week strike period in estimating service time.

Sensitivity, pension rights, vacations and other safeguards and benefits are affected by thisuling of the company.

Workers in the Schenectady plant and all other GE plants suffered a loss as a result of the company's policy.

The union also charges the company with failing to get the workers' name and affiliation with U.S. before putting the rules into effect.

Moreover, conditions of employment have been materially altered without consultation with the union.

Still No Radio Time

Another week without a Capital District CIO Local Radio broadcast.

G. W. B. at Troy says its schedule is still limited because of the round trip to CBS.

G. W. B. William Haggart, presi- dent, Dorothy Stahler, Fred Smith, and Joseph Driscoll.

Matles Warns Union Of Company Efforts To Stall Bargaining

United Electric and other operators are trying to prevent collective bargaining this year by starting a strike

This charge was made by James Matles, National U.S. director of negotiations, at the Local 311 meeting on Sat. He accused Schenectady to local officials and Executive Board members and to discuss the U.S. and CIO wage program.

"We can't be intimidated by a strike vote," he urged.

"Any labor union officer or labor union member who wants a strike should have his head examined.

"U.S. doesn't want a strike. We are ready to take every step in our power to reach a settlement agreement without a strike, all that U.S. wants is for GE management to see very good bargains and good people, instead of trying to squeeze them in this new round.

"Union negotiations with our bargains Matles said that in the last year's negotiations the same thing happened every time they reached a settlement and made plans for a longer meeting. We've never agreed to a settlement or a strike unless we agree to a settlement and made plans for a longer meeting. We've never agreed to a settlement or a strike unless we agree to a settlement and made plans for a longer meeting. We've never agreed to a settlement or a strike unless we agree to a settlement and made plans for a longer meeting.

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New Starting Rates Put Into Operation

The slightly increased starting rates for members, announced in the U.S. General Electric Conference Board's program for 1947, are now in effect.

The new starting rates are: 203 cents per hour with U.S. with 46 cents, 231 cents for U.S. 32 cents, 251 cents for U.S. 46 cents, 271 cents for U.S. and 271 cents for U.S.

Better is the meetin, Anson Mather, U.S. director of aggregation, explained in detail the new U.S. approach to negotiations. Under the new plan, the union will present facts and figures to GE and the other electric operators to support the case for a substantial wage increase.

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Wants More Women In Union Activities

At a recent meeting with the women's division of the CIO, Mary E. McCalmon, who has a No. 1 job is getting as many women as possible to take an active part in the Local 311 affairs.

She didn't wait any more starting her program, as she inched a meeting of union members at 311 30th St., the night after the last meeting.

The group discussed shop problems affecting women, had refreshments and made plans for a larger meeting next month.

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GE Head Asked To Take Action On Arbitration

After continued U.S. refusal to arbitrate grievances, the Executive Board of Local 311 this week wrote an urgent letter to GE President Charles E. Wilson the company president of the arbitration section of the national contract.

At the direction of the Board, President Andrew Peterson of Local 311 sent the following telegram Monday to Win.

"The company is not setting grievances with the union at Schenectady Works. The union has complied with the contract by processing these grievances through the procedure to the New York level. At the top, we find refusal by the company to arbitrate our differences.

"This attitude by the company provides labor trouble and is the cause of undependable labor relations. Refusing to arbitrate grievances defeats the purpose of the machinery in the contract for settlement of grievances. Likewise, refusal to arbitrate a dispute under our present contract is a violation of the contract.

"The Executive Board of our union requests an answer from you on this matter at your earliest convenience."

GE News were to speak "in" before an answer from Wilson could be expected.

As New York conference CIO management has decided it will not allow a "technical" CIO term for arbitrator to make decisions with the union, although the contract clearly provides it as such a term for arbitrator to make decisions with the union, although the contract clearly provides it as such an arbitrator to make decisions with the union.

"The Executive Board of our union requested an answer from you on this matter at your earliest convenience."

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Local 301 Approves Contract Proposals

Local 301 has approved the proposal of the U.S. General Electric Conference Board's program for 1947, and agreed.

The proposal includes the important of contract negotiations at 311 30th St., the night after the last meeting.

The group discussed shop problems affecting women, had refreshments and made plans for a larger meeting next month.

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To Help With Audit

Three members were named by the CIO local to help with the audit on the report on the books.

The three are Joseph Driscoll, Gordon Boland and Carl Kalmus.
Pro-Labor Senator Opens Bilbo Fight

Senator Taylor of Idaho made the show the opening day of Congress, according to his aide, New York, U.S. Representative representing.

A pro-labor Democrat, Taylor started the fight against Bilbo by attempting to be recognized first when he jumped up to talk. This tactic helped him from taking eastern profits advantage of the eastern bill.

Taylor made a hard-hitting speech which was neither a Republican nor a Democratic speech, New York reports.

He attacked Bilbo on the basis of and right of wage law. He attacked Democratic Senator Kilgore who, as chairman of the Senate Investigating Committee, had helped create Bilbo.

He attacked the southern Democrats on the recent situation in the South generally which is the root of the Bilbo bill.

Kilgore said "Republicans are now became they had to appear to the only champions of Negro rights and political reforms in the South."

Actually, the Republicans in the past have always managed to be holding whereas there was a real chance to abolish the poll tax, to establish the Fair Employment Practices Committee and other things," Kilgore pointed out.

Movie to Avoid!

"Song of the South"

The picture, the latest of the Disney series which was to open yesterday at Phoenix, has brought protests from labor organizations, Negro groups, labor and other groups throughout the country for the exclusion of the Negro people.

Reviewers, which are generally favorable, the picture based on an accredited writer of the Capital District CBD Council, have said that it looks like all countries tends to prejudice the showing of this film and to urge their members to stay away from it.

How About These Facts, Mr. Wilson?

(A continued from Page 1)

Richard E. Lennon, prominent business man, has asked for an increase in the retail price for women's clothing, according to a recent report.

"We have been trying to keep the price of women's clothing down," Lennon said, "but we feel that the market is not ready for a large increase."

Open House

All women's rooms are invited to an open house of the Women's War-Lab at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Schenectady 8.

Stevens Says It's Okay

To Earn More Than AER

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the superintendent, told the news last week that he had "no objection to the women making more than the AER (adjusted earnings rate)

Stevens emphasized that the story of last week's BUR News, quoting him as saying, "women workers should earn only the AER, did not occur to his views.

While all members of the same committee who heard him are agreed that Stevens was quoted erroneously in this paper, the news is nevertheless glad to give him his proper expression, of what his views are on the subject.

Stevens said that "high salaries are not necessarily the result of effort; they may be the result of the price of living." He said that "we (the GE) recognize that there are many cases where they are the result of effort," and that "we (the GE) encourage everyone to make more than the AER."

How To Protect Women

The Executive Board has named a committee to protect the rights of the Schenectady Women's Committee against the group's anti-union policy. The committee consists of Elizabeth Senter, Mrs. Mabel E. Nourse, and William VanAntwerp.

Good Investment

A gift of $50 has been sent by Loom 357 to the Civil Rights Congress to aid its work in the South.

Schenectady Times