

# General Electric to Reopen Utica Tube Works

## Hire 425 Workers on \$1.2 Million Payroll

The General Electric Company plans to spend \$850,000 on renovating and reequipping its Utica Tube Works in Kent St. and to reopen it for the manufacture of two-way emergency radio communications equipment.

The reopened plant eventually will employ more than 425 production workers and will have a payroll of \$1,200,000 a year.

This, it was announced at a luncheon meeting in the Utica yesterday attended by about 100 civic and industrial leaders of the area, is the first step in a local General Electric expansion program. Other details were not announced.

It involves the transfer of the production of two-way radio communications equipment from Electronics Park in Syracuse to the renovated Kent St. plant. This transfer will be gradual and it will not be until Spring or early Summer that it will be fully accomplished.

Only a few key persons will be transferred here from Electronics Park. And the new operation, officials said, will in no way affect production or employment at the Utica Receiver Works in Bleecker St. The renovated plant, to be known as the Utica Communication equipment Works, will be operated separately by G-E's Commercial Equipment Division.

**THE ANNOUNCEMENT** was made by Dr. W. R. G. Baker, G-E vicepresident, in an address on "Communications Equipment in Civil Defense."

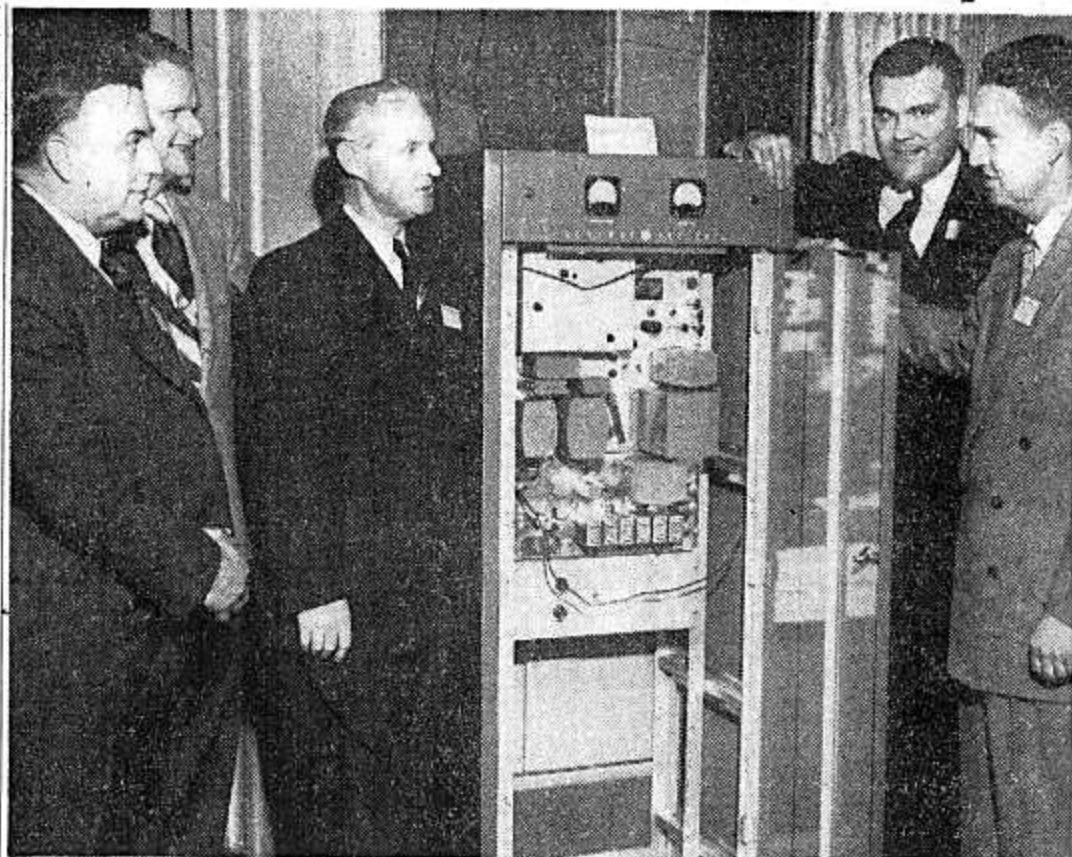
Later, G. Wesley Nutter, a native of Boston and a graduate of Clarkson College of Technology who has been with G-E since 1942, was introduced as the man who will come here to manage the plant. Nutter now is assistant general foreman in the Commercial Equipment Division at Electronics Park.

It was Nutter who announced that the company plans to spend \$350,000 renovating and \$500,000 equipping the Kent St. plant, which suspended production in April, 1948.

He estimated that about 60 per cent of the production employees will be women. The plant, he said, will be self-supporting and self-contained, with raw materials coming in one door, and finished radio transmitters, receivers, etc., going out the other.

**ON THE FIRST FLOOR** of the plant will be the receiving and stock room, the machine shop where parts will be punched or pressed, and the plating and finishing departments. On the second floor will be the assembly line, the coil-winding section and the stockroom for finished radios.

The communications equipment, chiefly of the FM type, will be for use on moving vehicles of all kinds. There also will be portable units.



**THEY'LL MAKE 'EM HERE**—G. W. Nutter, right, manager of Communication Equipment Works to be established in G-E's Kent St. plant, displays at announcement luncheon one of radio transmitter units to be made here. With him, from the left: Glynn Lockner, Oneida County mutual aid radio supervisor; John Dowdell, radio advisor to Utica Public Safety Department; Fire Chief Leo Barr, and J. F. Conley, G-E sales representative.

Besides the market in the civil defense field that may develop, officials said there is a present market for this equipment with police and fire departments, utility companies, buses, trucks, etc.

Besides Baker, who is general manager of GE's Electronics Department with headquarters at Electronic Park, a dozen key GE officials attended the luncheon and mingled with the area guests.

**THE ANNOUNCEMENT** was hailed as good news for Utica by local spokesmen.

Vincent R. Corrou, executive secretary of the Utica Chamber of Commerce said GE's decision to expand here was in recognition of the company's fine experience in Utica. He said this was first evidenced last July when the company, after a five-year trial of Utica, decided to buy the Bleecker St. receiver works plant.

He expressed confidence the public will make sure that the company never has cause to regret this new decision.

"I am sure the citizens of Utica and vicinity will do their best to provide service and work so that GE will decide to expand its facilities further," he said.

Leslie R. Taylor, president of the

chamber, and James G. Capps, chairman of the Industrial Development Division, spoke of the happy relations with GE in the past.

"I hope we will deserve what they are giving us, and that they will give us what we deserve," Capps said.

Mayor Golder described the announcement as a "first step" and said that it gives hope for "other steps" beneficial to Utica. He gave assurances of cooperation of the city administration in making the new move to Utica a successful one.

**DR. BAKER**, in his address, had pointed up the need for positive steps in the interests of civil defense, and Golder said he hoped Baker's remarks would serve to step up interest locally.

"I must admit that real enthusiasm on civil defense has been lacking here," he said.

Dr. Baker was introduced by P. L. Chamberlain, salesmanager of G-E's Commercial Equipment Division. It was he who said the move to Utica was the first step in a G-E expansion program. Twice during his remarks,

he expressed hope G-E officials would be "back for another visit before long."

**G. F. METCALF**, manager of the Commercial Equipment Division, briefly related G-E's history in Utica—the opening of the plant in the Kent St. building early in World War 2.

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