

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 U. E. R. & M. W. A.

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UE to Meet with GE on Contract Tuesday

Induction Motors Wins Disputes by Stoppage

A two-hour stoppage of virtually all 650 workers in Buildings 18, 40 and 40-B Tuesday morning answered the boast by an Induction Motors executive that "there is no union" here yet.

The stoppage was provoked by lengthy stalling and refusal to discuss seriously a series of piece work grievances in the shafting gang in Building 18.

After the stoppage, supervision got into active study of the grievances, and promised speedy action. A representative of the works manager's office was brought in. Wednesday afternoon the foremen gave the reply to the stewards. All the grievances were settled to the satisfaction of the men.

The shafting gang first sat down Monday afternoon, and the stoppage continued through the second and third shifts and on into Tuesday. When supervision still refused to talk, Board Members Joseph Kernaghan and William Christman got virtually all the groups to sit down, about 8:30 or 9 a.m. They returned to work at 11 a. m. after Works Manager Lewis J. Male told Leo Jandreau that the grievances would be taken up.

At noon the workers in Bldgs. 15, 17 and 19, who recently were placed under Induction Motors supervision, met and pledged support to 18 and 40 if further action was needed. Promises of support also came from other divisions.

Must Show Dues Books At Membership Meeting

Contract negotiations will be the chief subject of the June membership meeting of Local 301, the week after next at the union hall.

Second shift members will meet immediately after work Monday night, June 19 (at 12:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 20) and first and third shift members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 20.

The Executive Board has directed that all people attending must show their dues books with stamps showing they are in good standing.

301 Fights Ruling About Jobless Pay

State labor department officials at a conference with Local 301 in Albany Monday refused to budge from their refusal to pay unemployment insurance to GE workers laid-off as a result of the AFL steamfitters' strike, without a seven-week waiting period.

Frank Pipito, deputy state commissioner of labor, and Harry Zankel, Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance attorney, upheld the interpretation of the law which means that workers are penalized for a strike in which they are not participating. A committee of 15 UE members and the 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin, protested against the obvious unfairness of such a policy.

The 301 committee also pointed out that probably the majority of the nearly 3,000 Turbine and Motor Generator workers laid off recent-

Speedy Run-off Decision on Toolmakers Urged

UE is pressing the NLRB for a speedy run-off election among the toolmakers, if a run-off is held to be necessary. On Wednesday, when this paper went to press, there still was no word from the board on the subject. The IUE-CIO "protest" of the Schenectady result may give the NLRB an excuse for stalling a decision on the toolmakers.

The UE 301 toolmakers' campaign committee of about 40 men from all the toolrooms is continuing with its work in the expectation that there will be a run-off with the International Association of Machinists. The committee is being expanded.

Two leaflets were distributed this week by the committee, both leaflets being based on statements of the IAM itself.

One leaflet reproduces a letter from the IAM local "lodge" which has represented GE toolmakers in Fort Wayne for years. It shows that IAM rates there are lower than here, and they have no automatic progression, despite the fact that Fort Wayne area toolmaker rates are higher than in this area.

The other leaflet quotes directly from the testimony of IAM and company witnesses in the NLRB hearing on GE, showing that in the IAM toolmakers would lose their seniority on all jobs other than toolmakers.



ly were not laid off as a direct result of the strike, but because of GE's own production schedule.

The state officials agreed to meet yesterday on a local basis with 301 and GE on the question. GE was not represented at the Monday meeting.

On the basic issue of penalizing workers for another union's strike, a conference is scheduled with Labor Commissioner E. A. Corsi and Milton Loysen, director of the Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance, Friday, June 16, in New York city.

301 Asks Increase For Building Trades

In line with demands made last fall for adjustment of craft rates, Local 301 on Wednesday asked the Schenectady GE management for a 10 cents-an-hour increase and automatic progression for the building trades.

The decision to press the demands at once was made at a meeting of representatives of building trades this week at the union hall. A committee was to meet with the Schenectady management, at a conference scheduled for yesterday.

The building trades had not pressed their case pending the NLRB election, on the expectation that national contract negotiations would start immediately after the UE victory. But in view of IUE's action to hold up certification of UE, the building tradesmen felt it necessary to process their grievance without further delay.

Gains Sought for '50 and To Offset '49

Immediate reinstatement of the expired UE-GE contract, and continuation of the contract negotiations broken off by IUE-CIO disruption last fall, will be demanded at a bargaining conference with top GE management in New York next Tuesday.

Last fall the company offered a pension and insurance plan costing about 2 cents per hour based on the CIO-Steel plan. This offer was rejected by the UE membership. The company had indicated it was prepared to make further offers and that the wage question was open. Then it recessed negotiations, using the Carey IUE claims as an excuse. GE then petitioned for the NLRB election. It remains to be seen whether GE will now use the IUE's phony "protest" of the election in Schenectady and Erie to try some further stalling (see separate story on IUE protest).

Proposals Expanded

Now UE goes in with a set of proposals expanded in view of the fact that it must make up for benefits denied in 1949, as well as for 1950. In addition to pensions and insurance, UE is stressing the shorter work week with 40 hours' pay, a general raise, correction of rates for the skilled crafts, improved grievance procedure, and other points.

Jandreau on Committee

Plans to rally GE workers in all plants behind the UE negotiations were made at an enthusiastic meeting of the GE Conference Board of UE Locals last Sunday in New York. A negotiating committee was elected including Leo Jandreau, President John Nelson of the big Erie local, and representatives of the locals in Newark, Cleveland, Taunton, Mass., and Allentown, Pa.

Representatives will be added to the committee from the UE locals (Continued on page two)



"Wake up! The election is over and UE is outside waiting to negotiate."

Laborers and Welders Being Hired by GE

The works manager's office has admitted to Local 301 that GE has been hiring laborers and welders recently with no prior GE service.

The company claims that they hired people off the street only after the jobs were turned down by large numbers of laid-off men to whom they were offered.

Any worker with any GE service who is interested in these jobs should apply to Building 1 immediately. If he is not placed he should let the union know.

Union Wins Upgrading For Bldg. 17 Die-Maker

Local 301 has been notified that GE, at a national level, has agreed to upgrade a die maker on flame-hardened dies under Foreman Raymond Hallenbeck in Bldg. 17 from B to A. The grievance was pressed by Shop Steward E. J. Messit and Executive Member Sidney Friedlander.

The union claimed the company was trying to downgrade the work. As a result of transfers there were only B men on the job though there were A men formerly in the group.

UE Wins Gains

An agreement providing for a 10 cents an hour package increase has been signed by UE Local 623 and Penn Electric Coil Company at Pittsburgh, Pa. It includes a general pay raise of five cents, an additional five cents for motor repair men, improved vacation, and an insurance, hospitalization, sickness and accident benefits plan.

UE Members at East Pittsburgh Westinghouse Determined To Reunite Plant with Rest of UE

After staging a vicious campaign of slander, red-baiting, untruths and intimidation, the IUE-CIO company union June 1 carried the run-off NLRB election at the East Pittsburgh Westinghouse plant by the slim margin of 258 votes. There were 5,706 votes cast for UE and 5,964 for IUE.

Section Night

The section night get-together for workers in Buildings 65, 69, 73, 73-A, 77, 67, 71, 75, 79 and 234 will be at 8 p.m. Friday, June 16 at the union hall. Members should get their tickets (35 cents) from their shop stewards.

Glassblowers Join UE 301 at Knolls I

How is this for an organizing drive?

At Knolls I there were 19 glassblowers who tried unsuccessfully to get the NLRB to carve out a separate voting and bargaining unit for that craft. They planned to join the AFL Glassblowers Union.

Since the May 25 election 18 of the 19 have joined UE, through Board Member Anthony Villano.

Because of newspaper stories about the atomic workers at Knolls II, some people have obtained the mistaken idea that UE is no longer bargaining agent for Knolls I. UE still represents Knolls I which has far more hourly workers than the atomic outfit.

UE Will Meet GE Tuesday on Contract

(Continued from page one) in Lynn and Philadelphia, where UE lost in the NLRB election. Representatives of these two locals, as well as Pittsfield, were at the meeting and reported that active UE locals are being maintained at those plants. They said the workers at those plants would be prepared to join in backing the UE negotiations through the organized UE strength in the shops.

More than 300 UE shop stewards of UE Local 201 in Lynn attended a meeting Wednesday of last week, and made plans to continue to defend working conditions against company attacks and IUE-CIO sell-outs. William J. Kelly, 301 president, addressed the meeting. UE obviously carried the factory in the Lynn River Works, but the official vote included office as well as factory workers.

Attend Your Union Meetings.

The fact that over 5,700 workers remained solid for UE, in spite of terrific pressure, means that UE Local 601 will remain a strong fighting force at the plant. Many workers who voted UE have pledged to work unceasingly to bring the big Westinghouse plant back under the banner of UE, to protect and improve the wages, working conditions and security of all Westinghouse workers, under one contract.

The East Pittsburgh workers were subjected to pressure by the company, the press and radio, politicians, certain clergy, and other forces. They were threatened with eviction from their homes and were courted with bribes. Here are some highlights of the campaign:

At-noon of the day of the run-off election, IUE-CIO sound trucks blared forth that President Truman had just announced the withdrawal of all contracts from UE plants. The announcement was of course completely untrue.

Philip Murray received permits for plant gate meetings, but UE was refused such permits.

Murray arranged for the National Guard in full uniform, with rifles and bayonets, armored cars and machine guns, to parade through East Pittsburgh for IUE, as a build-up for a noon gate rally. A judge, who is candidate for lieutenant governor and was dressed in Navy uniform, spoke for IUE at the meeting.

CIO representatives offered attractive bribes to UE members, and threatened them when turned down. One UE member, who switched to IUE, frankly admitted that he was paid \$800 to change. He explained that he never saw so much money in one clip and couldn't afford to turn it down.

Murray imported goons and several hundred payrollers from all over the country. They were equipped with large sums of money and were lavish with beer and liquor.

The IUE-CIO spent \$150,000 just on billboards in a 40 mi. area.

Pensioners' Meeting

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the union hall.

144 Years Old — and Not Dead Yet

Red-baiting existed long ago in America, long before there was Communism in Russia or the atom-bomb was ever dreamed of.

Look over the following list of things that have been called "communist" and see how employers have labeled as red the measures that would be in the interest of the people.

1806—A UNION—Philadelphia Shoemakers struck for higher wages but the court ruled that their union was an illegal conspiracy. The manufacturers said they were bound to prosecute "conspiracies so subversive to the people's interests of the country."

1857—ABOLITION OF SLAVERY—A spokesman for the Southern slave holders said "we warn the North that every one of the leading abolitionists is agitating the Negro Slavery question merely as a means to attain their ulterior ends... a surrender to Socialism and Communism."

1904—8-HOUR DAY—The National Association of Manufacturers declared that those who favored a shorter work day were chasing the "horizon of communism."

1920-21—STRIKES—Headlines of employer newspapers of the period: "Coal strike is nothing less than an open defiant revolution." "Picketing is Un-American." "The Labor Strike is an Enemy to our Modern Civilization." "Bolshevism fights its way into Muskogee Street Car Strike."

1928—AFL—"The real menace to American institutions does not come from the relatively small number of communists... but from that organization (the AFL) which proclaims its right to speak for labor."

1938—CIO—Tom Girdler of Republic Steel Corporation—"Must Republic and its men submit to the terrorism of the CIO? If America is to remain a free country; the answer is no."

1944—FEPC—Rankin of the Un-American Activities Committee said: "This is the beginning of a communist dictatorship the like of which America never dreamed."

1946—UE—Phelps Dodge Company, trying to break UE workers strike, said in a leaflet: "Do your leaders aim to serve your interests or do they work for Communists?"

Blood Donors Needed

Volunteers are needed to replace eight pints of blood which John DiCoco, Building 40-B assembler, received in transfusions in May at Ellis Hospital. He had to have emergency treatment for a hemorrhage. People willing to donate blood are asked to contact the union office.

Court Hearing June 16 On UE Check-off Money

There will be a hearing before Federal Judge Knox in New York City Friday, June 16, on the questions of what happens to the UE dues check-off funds which GE turned over to the court last winter.

UE, IUE and the company have agreed that at each plant the check-off money should go to the union that won the NLRB election at the plant. Over \$75,000 of Local 301's money is involved.

With paychecks last week the company enclosed individual notices to people on the check-off list that they legally have the right to appear at the hearing.

Since the money was tied up Local 301 has been operating on dues collected directly from members and on reserves. The local's expenditures have been within the \$3,500 a week limit set by Supreme Court Justice Alexander.

Boosting Boys' Baseball

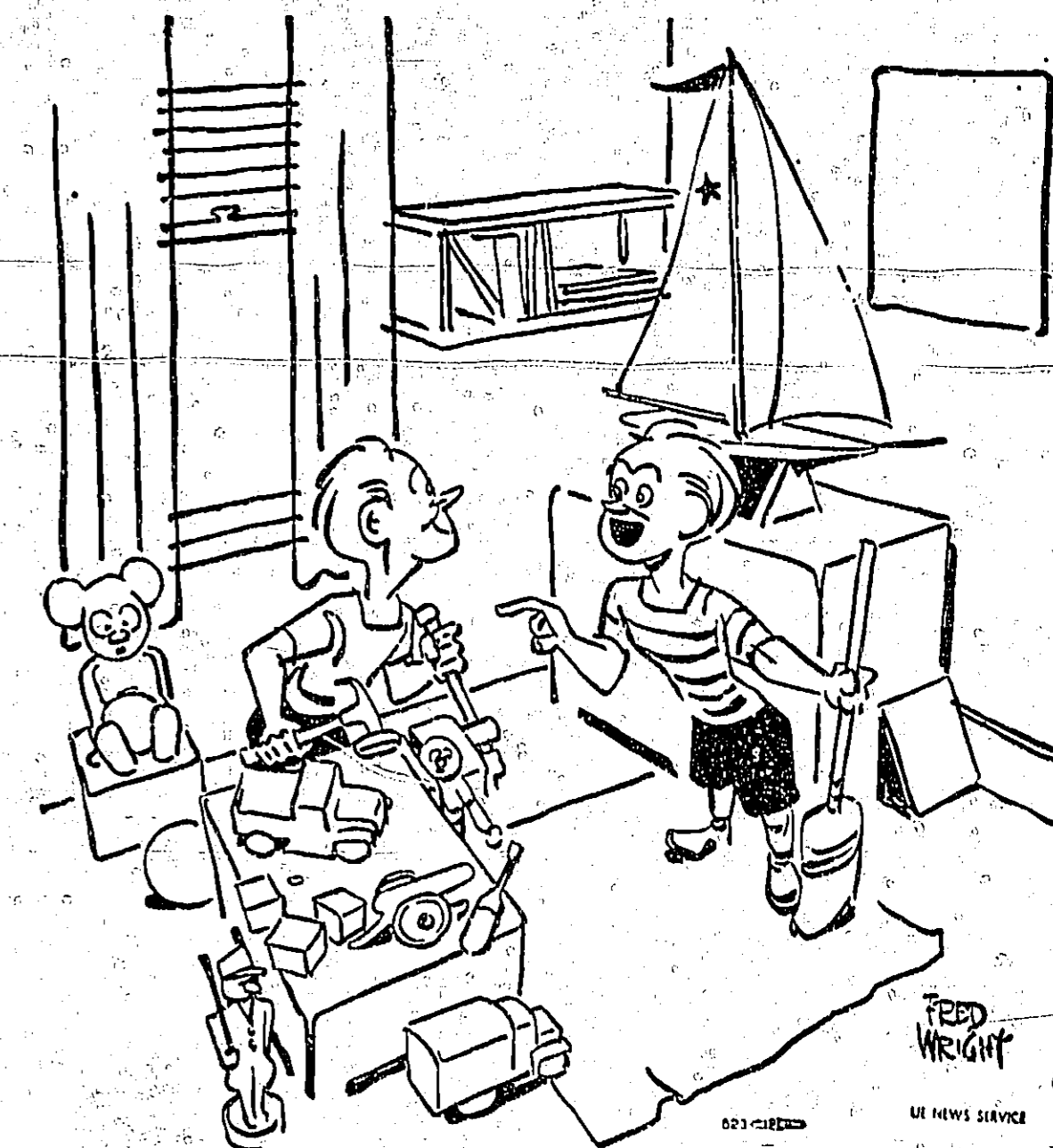
The 301 Executive Board this week voted to authorize the sale of Schenectady Little League donation tickets in the shops. The league is raising funds to pay for a baseball diamond in Michigan Ave. and equipment for boy baseball players, 8 to 12 years old.

UE Bargaining Program for GE

These are the demands on which UE has asked the General Electric Company to negotiate immediately.

1. Immediate extension of the expired contract.
2. Negotiation on the changes proposed by the GE Conference Board of GE locals, including:
 - A. Shorter work week with 40 hours pay, to provide jobs, and also to solve the third shift problem.
 - B. 10-cents per hour raise over and above what is needed to maintain take-home on a shorter work week.
 - C. A pension plan guaranteeing \$125 a month, to increase as Social Security is improved.
 - D. Company-paid hospitalization and insurance plan.
 - E. A separate wage adjustment to correct the skilled craft rates.
 - F. Removal of remaining discrimination in women's rates.
 - G. Improved grievance procedure.
 - H. Sunday double time to apply to continuous operations.
 - I. Union shop.
 - J. Anti-discrimination clause.

And improvement in various contract provisions, including stronger seniority and piece work guarantees, better provisions on holidays and vacations, promotion opportunities, transfers, and service breaks and removal of geographical differentials.



Let's play I'm the boss and I'll think of ways to speed you up...

Pay Increase

UE Local 1109 and the Line Material Company at Milwaukee, Wis., have signed for a package increase of over 14 cents an hour.

This includes a general wage increase, other pay improvements, and a company-paid pension plan of \$115 a month including social security.

Westinghouse Wants to Drop Steward System

UE contract negotiations with Westinghouse resumed this week, but no word had been received on developments when EU News went to press.

The company on May 22, taking advantage of the split IUE caused among Westinghouse workers, proposed that UE grievance procedures be done away with, and that some serious changes affecting piece work be made.

Instead of the present grievance system, and shop stewards, Westinghouse wants all grievances to be handled by a committee of two or three union members at each plant. This proposal follows the pattern set by Steel and other CIO unions.

While Westinghouse has been proposing this drastic change, workers at several Westinghouse UE plants have by their firm stand compelled the company to maintain the shop steward system pending and during contract negotiations. These UE plants include Essington, second largest plant and only turbine plant in the Westinghouse system.

Union Shop Victories

Sixteen tool and die jobbing shops at Philadelphia have voted for a UE union shop. The vote was 460 for and 44 against.