### Asking City Council to Join Fight Against Taft-Hartley Law



Local 301 tried in vain to get the City Council to take a stand

against the Taft-Hartley law. Vice President William Hodges, one of 10 speakers from the union, is shown urging the Council to act.

#### **UE Will Appeal** In Atomic Case

The National UE will file an appeal immediately from the dismissal of its suit against the General Electric Company and the Atomic Energy Commission for conspiring to break the UE contract with GE.

David Scribner, UE attorney. said the union will carry its case to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. UE has asked \$1,000,-000 damages and a court order restraining GE and the AEC from barring the union from representing workers on atomic projects. The national CIO joined in the suit against GE and AEC.

Federal Judge F. Dickinson Letts at Washington, D. C., grant ed the request of GE and the AEC to dismiss the suit. Under the ruling UE would never have chance to prove its charges against GE and the AEC in court. The judge said the court had no jurisdiction in this case over the actions taken by the AEC.

This is the same as saying that the actions of the AEC and of GE in this case "are above the law the constitution." Scribne "However, constitutional guarantees cannot be set aside. Nor can workers be legally deprived of their constitutional rights to protect their wages and working conditions through their freely chosen union."

Judge Letts' decision concerns a legal jurisdictional question entirely and in no way passes on the truth and merit of the charges brought by UE. It is an assistance, however, to GE and the AEC in their efforts to attack constitutional rights of workers and of the union under the phony excuse of "security."

#### Who Said What To Whom,—Why?

A strange maze of statements and denials last week surrounded question of whether or not James B. Carey, CIO secretarytreasurer and former UE president, had gone to top GE officials for help in fighting the present UE

W. V. Merrihue of Schenectady, manager of employee and community relations for the GE apparatus department, was quoted in the Pittsburgh Press of April 14. This paper is part of the big Scripps-Howard chain, and violently anti-UE. The paper said Merrihue told a meeting of the Pittsburgh Personnel Association that "our fight to get out from under the domination of the leftwing UE we expect to consummate

Mentions Jim Carey

The same paper said Merrihu

"Jim Carey, secretary-treasure of the UE, came to us before the last UE convention. He apparently wanted to get our help in breaking the Commie hold on the union. But we didn't confer with him. We don't meddle in internal affairs of the union. We don't want the employees to think we want to break up their union."

After a published attack by Carey on Merrihue's statement Merrihue issued a statement quoted in the Schenectady Union-

Star April 16, saying: "Carey is correct—he never did

The earlier story quoted Merrihue as referring to "us," not "me." The CIO News said that Carey labor leaders."

#### Discussion Continues On Jobs of Welders

Revised job descriptions for welders were offered by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, to the union grievance committee and welders' shop stewards last week. The issue had been moved up to Works Manager Lewis Male, but Stevens reopened it at his level.

Stevens said the new descriptions would raise the classification of 91 day work welders (this would not necessarily mean raising the rates for 91, as the company does not recognize all as being qualified). He said it would leave 111 men where they are now, and would reduce the classification of 40, but not reduce their rates.

The welders' stewards immed ately protested that the new descriptions did not meet their principal claim, that high pressure welding was recognized in the past as "special", carrying the \$1.62 rate. They also objected that the "preferential" rate of \$1.675 for outstanding combination men would be given to virtually no one under the proposed descriptions.

The union took time out to consult the welders before stating its position on the proposed descrip-

denied making any such appeal to It quoted Carey as follows: "I have suggested repeatedly that these large manufacturers keep their hands off, and especially that they stop giving aid to the

Communist Party by discharging vigorous anti-Communist members "The apparent fact is that they (GE officials) would rather do business with Communists than

with bona fide militant American

#### Tickets on Sale For Field Day

Shop stewards this week started selling tickets for the 301 field day June 19 at Hans Grell's Grove 2390 Albany St. Once again ak automobile will be the big prize awarded. It's a 1949 Studebaker. two-door sedan. Other prizes will be five toastmasters, five mixmasters and five radios

Gordon Belgrave and Edward J. La Bombard Jr., co-chairmen of the Activities Committee, have announced that the program is being planned to make field day a real family outing. There will be games and entertainment for children of all ages, as well as for

People interested in booth concessions should contact the union office. There is a \$10 fee for a

#### Magician Needed

The GE Foremen's Associa tion brought the personnel director of Endicott Johnson Shoe Company to demonstrate hypnotism to GE foremen.

Of course. Endicott Johnson has a notoriously successful anti-union record. Just the same several shop stewards have suggested that for what foremen are expected to do with their groups these days, GE should have brought in Mandrake the Magician and hypnotized the whole plant at once.

Did You Know?

Before UE was organized at. General Electric, it was the prace tice to dismiss men with long serv ice by laying them off without regard to seniority.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - C. I. O.

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

May 6, 1949

#### Turbine Division Assemblers Hit

Vol. 7 — No. 18

A widespread downgrading and lay-off of assemblers in the Turbine Division, based on a general speed-up, was announced last weekend by the division.

When the union argued the move in the Works Manager's office Tuesday, Frank Schaaff said the move was not because of lack o work, but because "we are getting better production," and that more such "cutbacks" must be ex-

#### 59 Assemblers Involved

The move involves 59 assemblers m stators, fields, and tanks, employed in 49, 60, and the new Turbine building.

At present the 59 include, on the three shifts, six AA assemblers 10 A men, 34 B men, and nine C men. If the move is completed, the number of AA men will remain the same, but the A men will be reduced to eight, or two less; B men will be reduced to 26, or eight less. and C men will be increased to 13, or four more. Six men will go out the gate, leaving a total of 53. Some A and B men will be moved to B and C jobs. The division had first said some B men would be dropped to D, but this was later withdrawn.

#### Union Protests

The union committee pointed out that this was not merely a speedup, but that obviously the Turbine supervision expected that A and B men downgraded to B and C ratings would continue to do the same work as before, but at lower pay. Schaaff said his office would see

that such a thing did not happen Discussion of the question is continuing in the shop.

Present at the discussion of the case were Board Members William Stewart and Ray Flanigan, Shop Stewards Salvatore De Pietro and Ernest Fainelli, and the grievance committee of Board Members James Cognetta and Anthony Esnosito and William Kelly, assistant to the business agent.

#### More GE Lay-Offs

Bridgeport, Conn., have brought offs were in the home laundry and Act with certain amendments.



#### Stewards Congratulate Klein for Stand on T-H

The shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night unanimously voted to send a telegram to Congressman Arthur K. Klein, of New York City, Democrat, congratulating him for proposing that organized labor engage in a one-day work stoppage to back up its demand for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

The motion also included sending a telegram to CIO President Philip Murray asking that he answer Congressman Klein's communica-

President Frank Kriss, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Board Member Joseph Mangino reported on interviews they had with upstate New York Congressmen Apr. 28 at Washington in efforts to press for Taft-Hartley repeal. They were not able to see Congressman Bernard Kearney.

Jandreau said they were inform ed that the Truman Administration New lay-offs at the GE plant at had the necessary votes to pass the Lesinski bill by a majority of total employment down to 4,500 30. This was a bill to repeal Taftfrom an original 9,000. Latest lay- Hartley and restore the Wagner

GE Will Lay Off 500 at Trenton

The General Electric Company plans to lav off 500 workers at its Trenton, N. J. plant Monday and to cut production 50 per cent.

The Associated Press quoted Harry Kilbey, works manager, as blaming the slash in production and personnel on "mounting inventories and a falling off in business generally." The plant makes washing machines.

Kilbey also said production curtailment will affect 70 employees at the Mt. Vernon plant which turns out sub-assemblies for Tren-

sell-out, however, and that Democrats agreed to additional amendments which would make the bill about as bad as the Wood bill. National AFL and CIO representatives were reported as taking part in the meeting agreeing on these amendments.

The House of Representatives Tuesday passed the Wood Bill,

#### **UE** Meeting On Plans for GE Contract

The GE Conference Board of UE met Wednesday in New York City to draw up proposals for reopening of the GE contract. The proposals will come before a membership meeting before being submitted to the company.

The six delegates from Local 301 took with them unanimous instruction from Tuesday night's meeting of shop stewards to support the recommendation of the UE General Executive Board to seek an increase of \$500 per year per employee in wages and other benefits:

They also were instructed, by unanimous vote of the stewards, to make the following proposals:

A 35 hour work week at 40 hours'

A negotiated wage structure. Immediate organizing through the GE Conference Board of UE of a fight against the speed-up and fo. the settlement of grievances

throughout the GE system. These three proposals were put from the floor and were based on suggestions of workers in Building

The GE Conference Board meeting was still in progress when this week's E'U News went to press. R presenting 301 were Business Agent Leo Jandreau, President Frank Kriss, Marshall White, and Board Members Dewey Brashear, Anthony Esposito and William

Jandreau told the stewards that UE leaders had made unsuccessful efforts to get the Steel and Auto unions to work out a coordinated wage campaign,

#### Ford Strike Scheduled

A United Auto Workers strike of 60,000 workers was to start yesterday at the Ford plant, Detroit, over the speed-up issue.

The Local 600 Executive Board ordered the strike after the national UAW secretary-treasurer, Emil Mazey, reported that Ford had slowed down work to a point ac-

JOIN THE UNION

NEEDED --- HIGHER WAGES FOR JOB PROTECTION

The Local 301 membership meeting in April voted unanimously to press for the repeal of the phony disability act passed by the state legislature this year. The meeting also voted to work for enactment of a real disability benefit program.

cents a week.

Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, called the bill signed by Governor Dewey "the biggest steal fraud and phony ever perpetrated on the people of the State of New York." He predicted that insurance companies would make millions of dollars on it.

work are unable to perform their work. Jobless workers who were ployment insurance contributions. in covered employment within a Workers are to receive 50 per

Most of the burden of financing workers themselves. Although disability benefits will not be paid until after June 30, 1950, workers have to start contributing Jan. 1 tribute at a higher rate, up to 30

but don't have to pay afterwards unless the fund needs replenishing. Insurance experts have figured that the program can be financed without calling on employers for extra contributions. The whole It provides for payments to program could and should have workers who because of injury or been financed through the "merit sickness not arising from their rating" rebates allowed to big employers of the state on their unem-

workers for the first six months,

cent of their weekly wages from a minimum payment of \$10 to a maximum of \$26 a week, for a maximum of 13 weeks.

Disability benefits don't start until after the eighth day of disability. If a worker suffers another disability period after three months he has to undergo another week's waiting period.

#### Press Again Twists Facts to Hit UE

Misrepresentation continues to be the standard newspaper weapon against UE.

In a story about so-called "right wing" activities, the Gazette on Tuesday referred to a "right wingers' convention next weekend in Dayton, Ohio." It said that "two delegates will go to Dayton from Schenectady Local 301."

This is an outright falsehood Local 301 has picked no delegates to any such meeting. If anyone goes from Schenectady he will not represent Local 301. His expenses will not be paid out of local union funds, for such funds are spent only for official union representa-

The story also said UE President Albert Fitzgerald "was once a member" of the big Lynn GE local. President Fitzgerald is a member of that local now, and its former president. The Lynn local has just designated him a delegate to the next UE Convention.

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#### Stockholders Hear About GE Speed-up

The heightened speed-up of recent weeks was referred to officially by President Charles E. Wilson of GE in his address to the annual stockholders' meeting here Apr. 19. Speaking of the change in business conditions. Wilson said:

"A vital part of our expansion program was devoted to increasing our efficiency and lowering our costs, to streamlining our facilities as well as increasing them.

"We are now in a position to collect some of these dividends and compete hard and aggressive-

The workers who have been subjected to speed-up methods, particularly in Turbine, will recognize what the string of big words real-

#### Electricians' Rate The company was advised this

week by Business Agent Leo Jandreau that the electricians had voted to accept the one-step raise for helpers, and other minor improvements, offered by the company. Tandreau also-advised the company that the Executive Board had repeated the union's position that all craft rates and other wage inequities must be corrected, and that the union would continue to press its demand for the negotiation of a complete wage structure for the

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS.



#### Why Doesn't Somebody Put on a New Record?

Anyway, UE must still be doing a good job for American workers. The House Un-American Activities Committee recently announced that it is about to hold another "investigation" into the UE, with public hearings this month. Could it be timed for when wage and hour negotiations get down to brass tacks?

The Associated Press piece on the "probe" wound up with the statement that the Un-American committee "says it has solid proof of the Communist Party membership of at least two members of UE who are active in important plants." And here, we thought they were going to show that the Communists had just about taken over every major UE plant.

#### Free the Trenton Six

The Executive Board is circulating "Free the Trenton Six" petitions in the shops. The petitions urge Governor Driscoll of New Jersey to intervene in the case of the six Negroes sentenced to death at Trenton on a framed murder March membership meeting.

#### Welders' Grievance Back to Male Level

The issue of job requirements for the various welders' classifications went back to the Male level last week, when shop stewards representing welders rejected the proposal made by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager.

The main dispute is over pressure welding, particularly on pipe work. The men contend that this has been recognized as receiving the "special" or \$1.62 rate in the past. Stevens said pressure welding in itself does not constitute a higher skill.

The men also claim that when required to do both are and gas welding, the rate is \$1.62, while Stevens said \$1.565 is the proper bracket. The company proposal also defined the "preferential" or \$1.675 job in such terms as to bar virtually all men from that rate.

#### On Strike for More Pay

Workers at the Richardson Boat Company at North Tonawanda, members of UE Local 308, have been on strike since April 1. The walked out when the company turned down their demand for a charge. This legal lynching was wage increase. An overwhelming condemned in the recent resolution majority voted to reject the comon civil liberties passed by the pany's proposal to postpone wage negotiations until September.

### **More Awards Made**

May 6, 1949

The following workmen's compensation awards were made recently to members of Local 301 for accidents at the plant, in cases handled by the union attorney, Marshall Perlin.

\$2,380 to Dominick Eplite, por-\$1,561 to Frank Liberatore,

helper at Campbell Avenue, for injury to his left leg June 12, 1947. No hearing had been held until a claim was filed through the union.

helper in Bldg. 60, for a toe injury. \$175 to Louis Comanzo, dispatch-

\$150 to Clifford Tidball, crane bollower in Bldg. 66, for a facial scar resulting from an accident April 8, 1948.

\$150 to George Vrooman, turbine test in Bldg. 60, for a facial scar incurred Sept. 9.

\$150 to Henry Mace, engine facial scar incurred Dec. 14, 1940. No claim was filed until the union opened the case some months ago. operator in Bldg. 49, for a facial

#### Pay Raise Obtained For 'Lab' Assistant

has received a change in classification which has brought him a raise of five cents an hour and assures him of automatic progression.

### In Accident Cases

ter in Building 66, for an injury to his hand last June 15 and \$544 for injury to a toe last Sept. 9. welder in Bldg. 16, for an injury to his left hand August 26.

\$1,310 to John Carr, carpenter's \$256 to Patsy Sipone, machinist

er in 73-A, for a facial scar resulting from an accident July 16.

lathe operator in Bldg. 18, for a \$125 to William Sticht, machine scar incurred August 27.

Through union negotiations Bernard Valachovic of Building 37 Valachovic, recently elected a

shop steward, had been laboratory assistant, Class E, for two and a half years without having his classification changed or a rate increase. Board Member Anthony Villano and a union committee took up the matter with the manage-

The company agreed to change Valachovic's classification as of April 18 to Class D, with a raise of five cents to \$1.28. This places him on a progression basis and he will automatically get to \$1.32 in two months.

#### ARTHUR GAETH-ABC "Let\_the\_People\_Speak" Sponsored by UE-CIO EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

MRELOWLERD

### THE UNION SAW OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF OUR HEARTS WE GIVE OUR



### 301 Calls for Extension

Of Veterans' Jobless Pay The Local 301 membership meeting in April unanimously voted to demand that Congress extend the veterans' unemployment insurance benefits for two years, with increased benefits and longer eligibility periods. If not extended,

the GI bill will run out June 1. The resolution adopted pointed out that many of the approximately 5,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States are veterans. "men who never have had an opportunity to fully develop their skills before going into military

"With the new lay-offs that are taking place on a nation-wide basis, the veterans are particularly affected in that they usually have less seniority and have not been placed in highly skilled jobs, so that they are one of the first to feel the impact of this unemploy-

The resolution, recommended by the Executive Board, also called for an adequate federal bonus.

#### Craft Workers Protest At GE Syracuse Plant

About 200 UE skilled workers at the General Electric plant at Syracuse walked off their jobs Tuesday afternoon to attend a union meeting on grievances concerning craft rates. The same group, including tool room workers, electricians. carpenters and other crafts, left their jobs Thursday of last week for a similar meeting.

10 P. M. ON WXKW, ALBANY the top New York level.

## To Laid-off Workers

Laid-off workers are warned again that when sent to the employment office they are usually subjected to pressure to accept openings on less desirable jobs even though they may have senlority rights to jobs in their own line.

Building 1 company representatives frequently hint to a laidoff worker that the job offered to him is the best he can hope for and he had better take i to protect himself. Sometimes this is true. Often, however Building 1 is concealing the fact that the laid-off worker may have bump rights in his own classification. If a worker once accepts a lower-rated job, it becomes very difficult to change the situation. If in doubt, consult your shop steward or the union office before accepting a lower-rated job.

#### Lynn Beats Raid By Splinter Group

An effort to break off a small unit of 170 workers from UE Local 201 at the Lynn, Mass., GE plant was recently beaten.

For over a year an outfit called the International Die Sinkers Conference has been trying to get a foothold in the plant where the 16,-000 workers are represented by UE. The Taft-Hartley Board cooperated by ordering an election for die room workers. UE was not on the ballot, of course, as the union will vision reported that 2,539 jobless The rate disputes have dragged not deal with the anti-labor board. workers were registered with it out for months and have gone to The die room workers voted as of Apr. 22. Apr. 15 figure was against the raiders.

#### Stewards Approve Statement on CIO

The shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night by a substantial majority voted approval of the statement adopted by the UE General Executive Board Apr. 24 criticizing national CIO officers for departing from the original CIO policies of "organizing the unorganized and advancing the interests of its mem-

The statement, printed in part in last week's EU News, called for a united CIO campaign for jobs

and a higher standard of living. It asked that CIO officals back such a program instead of "using the funds and energies of the CIO for raiding and union-busting ac-

The statement went into detail about the disruptive activity of CIO officials in interfering with the rights of autonomous CIO unions and in attempting "to keep the people out of the fight for their own legislative program."

"All of this has made almost impossible a united fight of labor to organize the unorganized for wage increases and against layoffs", the UE Board said. "It has placed in jeopardy the entire legislative program the people voted for last

"It will, if permitted to continue, lead to the destruction of the CIO."

#### Report 2,539 Jobless

The Schenectady county office of the Unemployment Insurance Di-