

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

March 10, 1950

Company Hedges on Contract Extension

GE Interferes with Collection of Dues

The General Electric Company's latest move against UE-301 is to try to hinder shop stewards in collecting dues from the members. The EU News last Friday announced that shop stewards were starting to collect April dues. Immediately after the union paper appeared, foremen told stewards that dues collections could not be made during working hours. The stewards proceeded with the collections despite the company interference.

Works Manager Lewis J. Male wrote to 301 this week repeating that stewards will not be permitted to collect dues during working hours. He used the familiar excuse that "the company must continue a neutral policy to avoid any possibility of unfair labor practice charges from any source."

Jandreau Letter

Business Agent Leo Jandreau wrote in reply that the union will not tolerate interference with stewards and officers in carrying out their union responsibilities.

He wrote, "Your whole action in this matter smells slightly of something different than the neutral policy that you speak about."

The union has no intention of advocating violation of existing rules at the plant, he pointed out, but "we do not expect management unilaterally to legislate new and special rules or regulations solely designed to curtail the normal functioning of our union."

Jandreau reminded Male that for many years before the check-off stewards collected dues at the plant.

UE-301 Is Bargaining Agent

Referring to the company's "alleged neutral policy", Jandreau pointed out that UE-301 is the only local bargaining agent at the plant.

He continued:

"Your letter seems very untimely to us inasmuch as it seems to contemplate trouble. This advance notice seems to seek to discourage normal activity of UE Local 301

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301 Backs Miners with Food Donations



Members of UE-301 with food they brought to the Subway gate to send to the striking mine workers. The truckload of food from 301 was scheduled to leave this week, after the strike was settled. But the food was still urgently needed.

NLRB Hearing Closes; UE Urges Speedy Vote

The hearing on the National Labor Relations Board election at General Electric plants finally ended Saturday, and UE has renewed its pressure for an immediate vote.

Only the UE demands for continuing the sessions late in the afternoons and on Saturday kept the hearing from dragging on into this week or longer.

There was no indication by Wednesday, when this paper was written, whether the "Imitation UE"

GE workers can help protect their working conditions by telegraphing or writing to the National Labor Relations Board demanding an election before Apr. 1. The messages should be sent to Paul M. Herzog, chairman of the NLRB, Washington, D. C.

and GE would try to stall proceedings still further by asking for

Union Draws Up Proposals For Contract

The GE Conference Board of UE locals last weekend in New York passed a resolution asking GE to meet on contract extension, and drew up proposals for a new contract.

In reply to an earlier letter from Joseph Dermody, UE international representative, George H. Pfeif of GE top management has written that GE is investigating legal problems involved in a meeting and might decide it was improper to meet.

The membership of UE-Local 301 has taken the position that contract conditions must be maintained beyond Apr. 1 until the

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A Real Pension Plan

Because the pension and insurance plan negotiated by UE with Westinghouse Airbrake is outstanding in its benefits and shows up the miserable Steel and Ford pension plan of CIO, the "Imitation UE" is going beyond all previous limits in misrepresenting the Westinghouse Airbrake agreement.

The Westinghouse Airbrake workers had to reject the company's repeated offers of the Steel agreement before they were able to win their own excellent plan.

An expensive colored leaflet distributed by the IUE this week gave a thoroughly untrue picture of the Westinghouse Airbrake agreement. The true facts were given in detail in the last two issues of the UE News, national UE paper.

A summary comparison of pension plans will be given in this paper shortly, based on the actual agreements.

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IUE Claims Phony On Philco Pension

Covering up one propaganda falsehood with a still bigger falsehood is now standard practice with Carey's stooges.

After UE exposed the many falsehoods about the Philco pension agreement, the "Imitation UE" leaflet of Feb. 28 stated that the agreement was given to the press on Dec. 19.

The actual agreement was never given to the press by IUE. All that was given was an untrue story about it. The national UE News was able to obtain a copy of the agreement and published the actual language on Feb. 20. That was the only time it was in a newspaper and the first time that Philco workers had a chance to see it.

The "Philco Pension Plan" published in the IUE leaflet of Feb. 28 is not the agreement at all. It is fabricated story about the agreement, putting in it a lot of things that are not in it at all. Just look at the actual agreement in the UE News of Feb. 20.

Next Week's Schedule Of Section Meetings

The series of section membership meetings which started Monday will continue next Monday through Thursday at 801 hall. The sessions will be at 7:30 p.m.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau is addressing the meetings on contract extension after Apr. 1, the 1950 contract proposals, the National Labor Relations Board election and dues collections.

The schedule for next week is as follows:

Monday, Mar. 13—Bldgs. 65, 69, 73, 73A, 67, 71, 75, 77, 79, 234, 53, 107.

Tuesday, Mar. 14—Bldgs. 57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C, D, 99A, B, 101, 105, 85, 98, 97, 109, 68, 72, 76, 80, 84, 205, 227, 238, 241.

Wednesday, Mar. 16—Bldgs. 59, 269, 285, 18, 13F, 61, 63, 258, 259, 265, 49 Patrol, 11 Test Maintenance.

Thursday, Mar. 16—Bldg. 273.

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McCarlin, Chairman
Adrian Kohnsienki, Secretary
Robert Armstrong Frank D'Amico
Victor Pasche George Quirk
Gertrude Rode Troy Slipe

Editorial Office
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 2-1889

Chief Shop Steward Swearing in Stewards



James Cagnetta, 301 chief shop steward, at extreme left, administering the oath of office to the following stewards, left to right, Edith Martin, Building 68; John M. Wiesinger, 69; Joseph Mrozek, Jr., 13; Anna E. McFyge, 28, and David Fiore, 69.

Company Hedges on Contract Extension

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National Labor Relations Board election is held.

Dermody wrote Pfeif again this week saying that UE is aware of the fact that the legal department of GE has been inventing legal subterfuges to stop bargaining, to help the company union IUE, to hold up union dues funds, and to fight the workers in other ways.

Since the legal department thought up these subterfuges, Dermody pointed out, it should be easy for them to brush aside these obstacles and meet.

The Conference Board adopted the following contract proposals:

Ten cents an hour wage increase.
A shorter work week with 40 hours pay.

Minimum \$125 a month pension, with amount to go up when Social Security law is improved.

Hospitalization and insurance paid for by company.

Union shop.
No discrimination because of race or religion.

Overtime and holiday provisions to apply to continuous operations.
Correction of rates of skilled trades and other day workers.

Remove geographical differentials.
Eliminate inequities in women's rates.

Time limits in grievance procedure; grievance steps on the general foreman and superintendent level.

Improvements in piece work, holiday, vacation, seniority and transfer provisions.

President William J. Kelly, Recording Secretary John Green and Business Agent Leo Jandreau represented 301.

There was a joint meeting of the GE and Westinghouse Conference Boards before the groups met separately.

GE Interferes With Collection of Dues

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and to encourage those who would destroy our union. With the long-standing record of collections for everything under the sun either approved or sponsored by the company during working hours, why single out union dues collection and make such a serious objection to it."

Direct Dues Collection Necessary
The UE-301 membership voted for direct collection of dues after GE and IUE team-work tied up four months' check-off money in Federal Court.

It is expected there will be a court hearing soon on a proposal that after the NLRB election the check-off money at each plant be turned over to the union that wins there.

IUE turned down the UE proposal that the money be returned to the individual workers immediately to do with as they choose, instead of waiting for the outcome of long court proceedings. IUE then tried to save face by making the new proposal depending on the outcome of the election at each plant. The national UE recommended that GE locals accept, to avoid more delay.

Legislature Ignores Problems of Jobless

As the state legislature draws near its close, bills to improve and broaden unemployment insurance are still buried.

But employers are pushing for last-minute passage of legislation to decrease jobless benefits, by a new method of estimating the basis for payments. The big corporations are also trying to disqualify skilled workers from unemployment insurance if they don't take unskilled jobs. And they are trying to increase penalties for "chiseling."

A committee of 301 Executive Board members, with Leon Novak UE District 3 attorney, was to meet with State Senator Thomas F. Campbell in Albany Wednesday night on the situation. The group also hoped to arrange a conference with Speaker Oswald D. Heck of the Assembly.

Safe Prediction

Any day now the "Imitation UE" will be issuing leaflets or newspaper statements boasting about grabbing \$115 of the membership's money from UE-301.

The \$115 represents court costs levied on 301 in connection with appeals and motions in pending court cases.

Awkward for IUE

Even Carey's Pal Walter Reuther Branded R. J. Thomas as Dishonest

R. J. Thomas, chairman of the CIO committee of out-of-towners running the "Imitation UE's" Schenectady campaign, has been branded as "completely dishonest" by one of James B. Carey's closest pals, Walter Reuther.

In 1946 Reuther defeated Thomas for president of the United Auto Workers. During that bitter campaign Reuther accused Thomas, then the UAW president, of "irresponsibility bordering on treason." He called Thomas "a desperate man doing his best to hold on to a swivel chair."

Charged With Lying
In reply to one of Thomas' campaign statements, Reuther said, "That's a contemptible lie." He referred to another of Thomas' charges as "the most fantastic, contemptible piece of forgery brought in yet."

Thomas predicted:
"If Reuther is elected the Auto Workers can look forward to the finest dictatorship the union has ever seen. Reuther is surrounded by 'yes' men. He demands absolute obedience and his lieutenants can't even think for themselves."

Reuther Red-Baited Thomas
Reuther red-baited Thomas throughout the campaign. Now Thomas is using the same tactics against UE.

After Reuther's election, Thomas asked to be appointed to head the union's General Motors department. Reuther turned him down with the comment, "I would be unwilling to force Thomas on the GM workers."

The Thomas-Reuther feud continued well into 1947. In September of that year Thomas called Reuther a man "blinded by factional frenzy and drunk with personal ambition."

Both Helping Carey
A few months later Thomas was given a fat job with the CIO. He and Reuther buried the hatchet. Now they're working together closely to try to salvage Carey's IUE.

Thomas' standing with a large part of the membership of his union was very shaky even when he was president. In the major UAW city of Flint, Mich., not a single UAW local would permit Thomas to attend their meetings during his terms of office.

WEAR YOUR UE BUTTON
Attend Your Union Meetings

IUE Plays Politics In Chris Wagner Case

A recent IUE leaflet accused an unnamed UE steward of doing a bad grievance job on the case of Christopher Wagner of the Turbine Division, who was demoted.

The case actually shows simply that the IUE played politics with Wagner at his expense.

Two UE shop stewards were approached by Wagner, and both of them were taking up his case, despite the fact that he was not a union member in good standing and had been talking IUE.

But Wagner accepted the demotion, and announced he was going out on pension April 1, even though he was not scheduled to do so until next fall. By retiring early, he may seriously reduce his pension and unemployment rights.

Wagner can thank the IUE for steering him away from UE stewards who were trying to help him out.

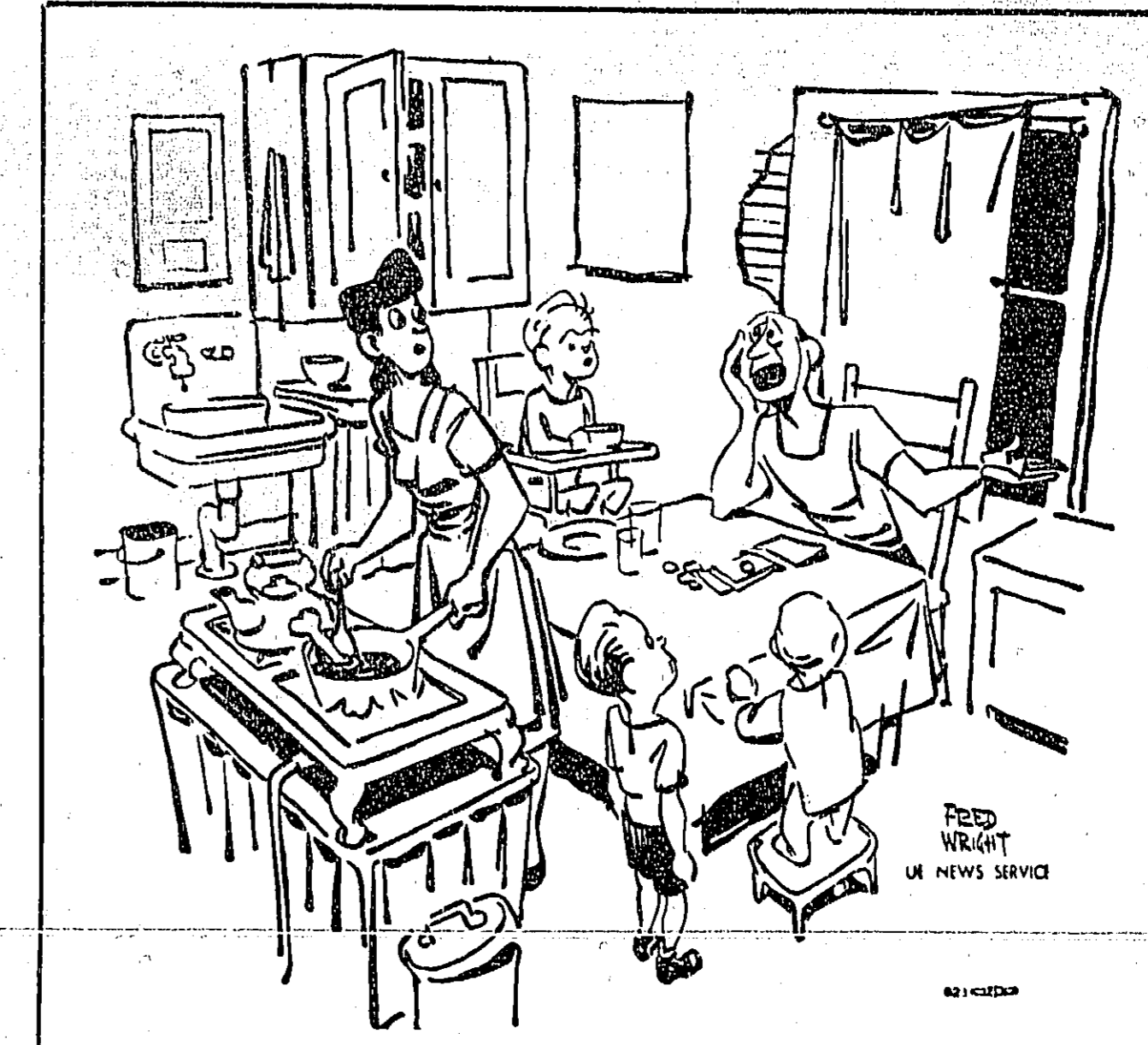
Carey Can't Laugh Off These U. S. Wage Figures

The following is from the report of the federal Steel Industry Fact-Finding Board, which received the high praise of Philip Murray and James B. Carey:

Increase in hourly earnings from 1939 to 1949:
Electrical Workers 107 percent
Steel Workers 95 percent
Auto Workers 84 percent
Applying the Department of Labor's price index to these figures, the following happened to real earnings (buying power):
Electrical Workers up 22 percent
Steel Workers up 15 percent
Auto Workers up 9 percent

Fifth Raise

For the fifth time in two years of bargaining, UE has won a wage increase for the workers of Ward Products at Ashtabula, Ohio. The new boost brings the total wage increases for the two-year period up to 28 cents an hour. The latest raise is five and a half cents across-the-board, plus rate adjustments, automatic increases for assemblers and other benefits.



"And then he said, 'Our big profits are a sacred trust and you should be thankful to take a wage cut to preserve them.'"

Facts About Sperry Catch Up with Carey

Once again the Carey stooges try to claim the contracts at Sperry and Ford Instrument in New York as examples of "Imitation UE" contracts.

Can't blame the boys for trying, but facts are facts. As shown by the record before this, the conditions at both plants were established under UE leadership. Since IUE men got into office, they have been tearing down the conditions won when the workers were united in UE.

Evidently IUE will never learn that falsehoods can be exposed.

More Jobless Now Than Since 1941

Unemployment in the nation rose in February to the highest point since August 1941, the U. S. Department of Commerce announced this week. The official figure was 4,684,000. The real figure is much higher, because the official surveys omit various kinds of unemployment.

Strikes had nothing to do with the high figure. The announcement said that the figure excluded those idle because of strikes.

One of the UE's main demands in the coming contract negotiations is for a shorter work-week with 40 hours' pay, so as to stop lay-offs and provide for those now unemployed.

Harvester Workers Defeat UAW Raid

Farm Equipment Local 107, UE, smashed a raid by the United Auto Workers recently at the West Pullman plant of International Harvester at Chicago. The workers voted for UE 1,244 to 1,078 in a National Labor Relations Board election Feb. 21.

UAW ran a campaign of bribery, slander, lies and red-baiting. Bosses in the plant put on pressure for UAW. Philip Murray sent a personal letter to the workers. A Taft-Hartley injunction tied up the UE local's funds and prevented the members from acting against proven traitors. But UE won the election.

UAW raids have also been beaten by UE at Harvester plants at Louisville, East Moline, Auburn, McCormick, Rock Falls, Canton and Farmall. UAW spent an admitted \$250,000 on the McCormick raid and an estimated \$100,000 at Louisville and West Pullman.

Newspapers have made little or no mention of the UE election victories at Harvester plants. But they have voted up every batch of 100 or 200 votes the IUE wins. As the Taft-Hartley Board is in league with IUE, elections have been rushed in the places where IUE is strongest. IUE is boasting about its victory in the Carey stronghold, General Motors. The 50,000 FE members who have joined UE constitute over twice as big a group as the GM electrical division.