

## Boulware Distorts Facts on Contract

For the past two months GE has fought for contract changes which would seriously weaken the old UE contract protection of working conditions. But GE's Vice-President L. R. Boulware came out in last Friday's "Works News" with a statement that GE wants a "good contract", and a contract that is "clear, workable, and fair to all concerned."

That is a prize example of distortion of the facts.

The nub of Boulware's long statement is as follows. He says that during the last year of the old contract new interpretations were advanced by union representatives against the company because "two groups of union leaders" were looking for "political advantage."

The truth is, as GE workers know from their own experience, that for the past four years GE has been trying to whittle down and evade the contract protection, particularly on piece work and seniority.

No amount of talk about interpretations changes the fact that the company this year has tried to remove the basic piece work protective guarantee, make a big change in the seniority provision, open the way to discriminate against shop stewards for union activity, take away the right to negotiate changes in wage rates, weaken the grievance procedure and refuse to let the union take cases to arbitration.

And on top of trying to destroy the contract, GE has made a very poor offer on wages, pensions and insurance, when GE workers are entitled to substantial gains to cover 1949 and 1950 negotiations, in the light of company profits that go higher every year.

## Did You Know?

Since January, 1945, the General Electric Company has raised dividends per share of stock by 71 percent, as compared to an increase in weekly wages of 14 percent.

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## GE Wants to Deprive Workers of Jobless Pay

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to take turbines without final test, and that this was the only reason workers were brought back before the strike ended.

### Strike Is Phony Excuse

UE takes the position that GE brought people back because it was the end of the substitute two-week shutdown period. The union charges that GE deliberately used the strike as an excuse for layoffs for several reasons:

1. To save money on unemployment insurance and qualify for a big rebate.
2. To weaken contract negotiations by having large numbers of workers out without unemployment insurance and in pressing need of cash.
3. To put heat on the steamfitters.

### Could Have Kept Workers

GE representatives acknowledged they could have kept people working, but thought it would "throw things out of balance."

The GE attorney accused UE of trying to tell the company when it should work and "infringing on the rights and prerogatives of management." 301 Attorney Perlin said the union isn't trying to figure out the GE production schedule, but to keep the company from blaming layoffs on a strike, and cheating workers out of their jobless pay. UE claims the only workers actually affected by the strike were about 100 to 130 on final assembly, who couldn't work without steamfitters.

Union witnesses included President William J. Kelly, who outlined the production steps in making a turbine.

Executive Board Member Teddy Wheeler said that over 1,000 workers in his jurisdiction didn't depend on the presence of steamfitters to do their work. He told of one man who was told before the strike that he'd have to be out for a couple of weeks because the company wanted to repair his machine. Later GE blamed his layoff on the strike, but his machine was repaired by the time he returned.

### Stewart Testifies

Executive Board Member William Stewart testified that the work of the 1,700 people in his jurisdiction didn't depend on steamfitters, except for the few on final assembly. He said workers laid off are now working overtime, six and seven days a week, to make up for the lag in production.

Roy Hamilton, inspector, testified that inspectors could have

kept on working on sub-assembly jobs.

John W. Winslow, bucket assembly man, said there was work for men to do on rotors, instead of being laid off.

John Farry, crane operator, testified that crane operators were put on rotation during the strike. Those working had to double up and do two men's work.

### Work Piled Up

Jack Roses, milling machine, said he fell so much behind in his work owing to the layoff that he has to be given priority lists on rush jobs now.

Lee Maguire, armature winder, said his foreman told him he was out because of lack of material. But GE changed its mind and told the unemployment insurance office not to give him jobless pay on the grounds he was laid off because of the strike.

For lack of time, the union did not put on other witnesses present. But Attorney Perlin cited the case of a woman worker who was out on rotation for a year. Now the company claims her lack of work in May and June was caused by the strike.

## Westinghouse Workers Adopt Action Program

The UE National Westinghouse Conference Board has unanimously adopted a six-point program of action to marshal the fullest possible strength behind the Westinghouse contract negotiations.

The first point calls for UE locals at Westinghouse plants to back the contract negotiations with plant gate meetings, protest actions and a strike vote.

UE certified shops are to assume the responsibility of developing similar activities in IUE Westinghouse shops in their community or area.

Other points on the program call for UE Westinghouse locals to do the following:

Inform their members regularly on all issues concerning negotiating the national contract or local supplements.

Organize publicity campaigns in their community to get the maximum support of the public for the fight of Westinghouse workers.

Undertake negotiations immediately to complete local supplements on seniority, in line with provisions of the national agreement.

Start a campaign for a union shop election.

During the past few weeks,

## UE 301 Tries to Speed Toolmaker Certification

A conference of representatives of UE 301 and the International Association of Machinists with the company was arranged for yesterday afternoon after this paper was written in an effort by UE 301 to work out means of speeding action on challenged ballots in the toolmaker run-off.

The question of the 54 challenged votes is holding up certification of the UE 301 election victory July 28.

The 54 challenged ballots include those of 42 apprentices whose right to vote under the NLRB order is very doubtful, and 12 other men, at least nine of whom are neither apprentices nor toolmakers.

A careful survey by the UE 301 toolmakers' committee shows that no matter how the NLRB rules on doubtful votes, UE 301 has more than enough votes to insure victory. All that the IAM can do is to stall off the formal UE victory and prevent the toolmakers from participating in contract negotiations and regular grievance handling. But either the IAM or the company can hold up formal certification of UE for weeks or months by insisting on a NLRB ruling on every challenged vote.

The conference was arranged in an effort to avoid the need for a formal ruling. UE 301 was to be represented at the meeting by Shop Stewards Andrew Bufano, Bldg. 17, and Neil Dube, Bldg. 24, Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, and Marshal Perlin, 301 attorney.

## \$100 in Prizes

Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded to UE 301 members at the combined membership and shop stewards' meeting next Tuesday at union hall. Winners will be drawn by lot, at the meeting. Only members whose dues payments through July have been recorded in the union office are eligible. They need not be present to receive a prize, however.

The first prize will be \$50; the second prize \$25; the third, \$15; and the fourth, \$10. The month drawings started at the July meeting.

there have been a series of stoppages and slowdowns, both at UE and IUE Westinghouse plants, over grievances and contract negotiations.

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## GE Ups Pension Offer to \$125 Minimum

### Delegates Elected To UE Convention

UE Local 301 will be represented at the national UE convention Sept. 18-22 in New York City by the following 10 delegates elected Tuesday by the joint membership and shop stewards' meeting: President William J. Kelly, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, Vice-President Joseph Mangino, Recording Secretary John Green (second shift) and Executive Board Members William Christman, Larry Gebro (third shift), Joseph Kelly, William Mastriani, Fred Pacelli (second shift) and Helen Quirini.

### Pressure Growing For Equal Shifts

Building 278 shop stewards are canvassing their groups on a proposal to organize a fight for three eight-hour shifts. This would require payment for a lunch period. The demand for three eight-hour shifts is one of the contract demands, along with improved seniority and piece work safeguards.

The stewards will meet Monday at the union hall to consider the results of the canvass.

The move started with a meeting of third shift workers last Friday called by Board Member Larry Gebro. The members decided to meet at the UE 301 Hall regularly every Friday at 7:30 a.m., after the end of the Thursday night shift.

## Prize Winners

The \$50 prize was won by Dyer M. Utman, Building 53, at the monthly drawing at the UE 301 membership and stewards' meeting Tuesday.

The other prizes were won as follows: \$25, Luella Carter Langlois, Bldg. 53; \$15, John Shepard, Bldg. 78, and \$10, Florence Worrell, Bldg. 10.

Three members missed out on the first prize and three lost out on the fourth prize because their July dues were not paid.

## Slight Gains Also Made On Insurance

A few concessions on pensions and insurance were made recently by the General Electric Company, International UE Representative Joseph Dermody and Business Agent Leo Jandreau reported Tuesday at the UE 301 membership and shop stewards' meeting.

For the first time GE has offered a \$125 minimum pension (including Social Security) for workers with 25 years service and who are 65 years old. Company representatives said they would take under advisement the union's request that pension adjustments be made also for workers already retired.

### Disability Pension

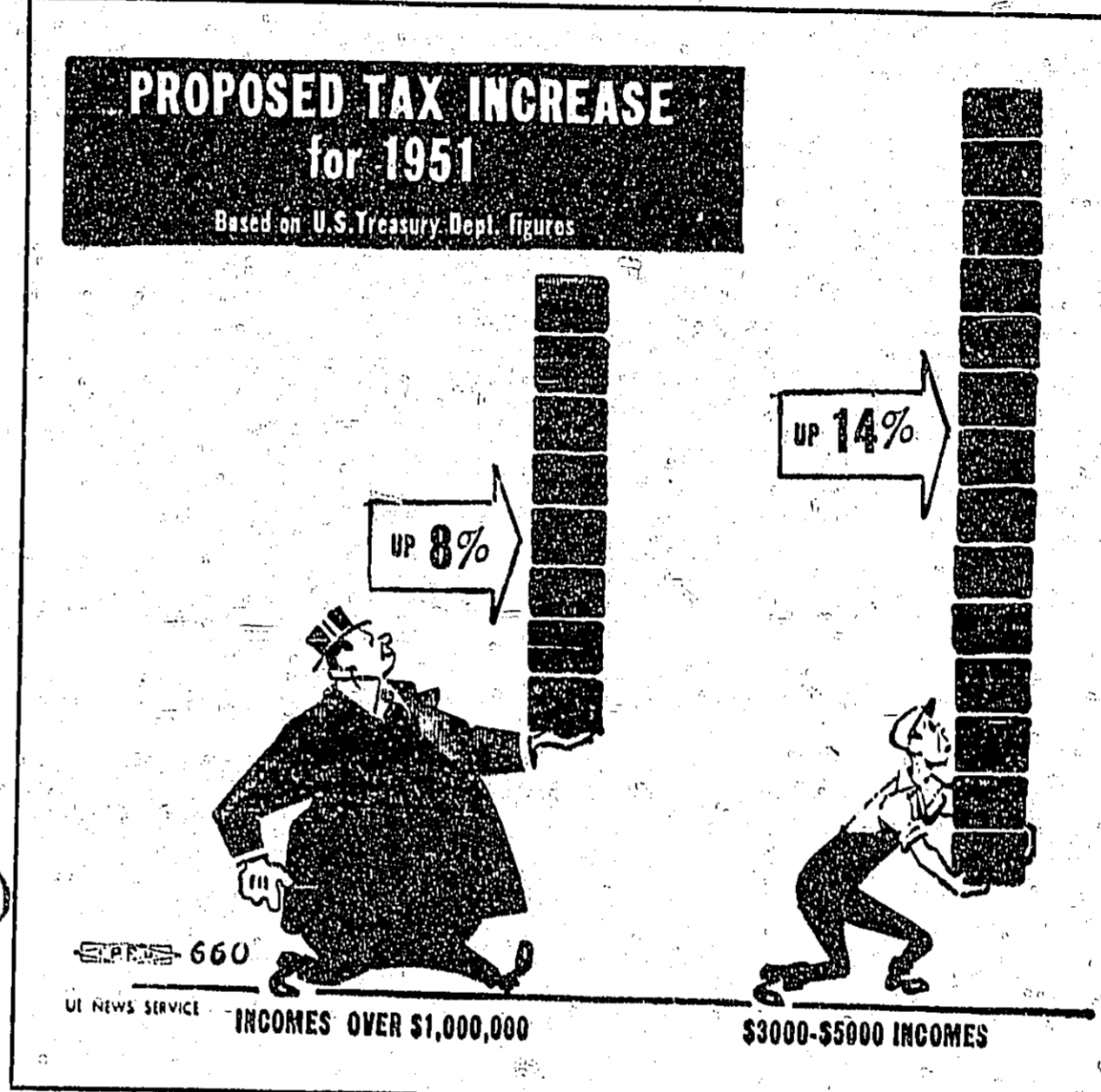
GE admitted that its proposed specific minimum disability pension of \$50 a month is low and indicated it would raise the figure.

The company has agreed to the UE proposal that the insurance plan be extended to cover accidents on the job. Under this arrangement employees whose workmen's compensation payments are less than those provided for in the plan will be paid the difference between the compensation payment and the amount provided for in the plan.

### Apart on Many Issues

Although GE has withdrawn some of its proposals aimed at destroying or weakening basic contract safeguards, the company and the union are still far apart on many important issues. These include such things as no discrimination against shop stewards, piece work prices where there has been a change in method and a no-strike clause. Furthermore, the union's original economic demands have been met only in part.

The negotiations continued Monday and Tuesday of this week and were to be resumed yesterday (Thursday).



## UE-301 Delegation to Protest to McGrath Against Contempt Citations of UE Members

UE Local 301 voted Tuesday to send four Executive Board members to Washington, D. C., to protest against any further steps on the contempt citations voted by the House of Representatives against seven leaders and members of UE.

The Board members chosen were Dewey Brashear, Joseph Kelly, Rossiter Lighthall and William Mastriani. Business Agent Leo Jandreau telegraphed Attorney General J. Howard McGrath Wednesday asking him to meet with the four as soon as possible.

The decision as to what further steps will be taken on the contempt citations rests with the attorney general. UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald in a message to McGrath declared that the fact that the House of Representatives has sanctioned unconstitutional procedure does not absolve the attorney general's office of its duty to protect constitutional rights.

Fitzgerald heads a national UE Defense Committee to organize the defense of UE members against those attempting "to destroy the U. S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and to frame-up

union members."

The Un-American Committee obtained the contempt citation against Julius Emspak, UE general secretary-treasurer and a charter member of 301; James J. Matles, UE director of organization; and officers and members of several locals in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Jandreau called on the 301 membership and stewards' meeting to give full backing to the defense fight. The Un-American Committee has attacked the seven as part of the attack on all fighting unions and fighting union leaders, he said. He praised the record of Emspak in the building of Local 301 and the work of both Emspak and Matles in their national offices. It is significant that the contempt citations came during contract negotiations, he declared.