

And Now They Tell Us with Colored Funnies . . .



Local 301, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO

January 30, 1948

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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Company Violates Seniority Rights

Business Agent Leo Jandreau has taken up with J. M. Howell, works manager, a complaint that the company is violating the contract provision on seniority, in the current lay-offs in the Control Division. In letters to Howell, Jandreau cited four such lay-offs.

The Executive Board has voted that the full board will go in on the dispute when discussed with Howell.

In Bldg. 81, assemblers with eight and seven years' service were given lay-off notices while men with less than one year's service were retained in closely-related work. The lay-off of these two assemblers was postponed for one week pending further discussion, after the union's protest.

In Bldg. 89 a resistor winder with seven years was forced to take a punch press job in Bldg. 17, under protest, while a man with seven months stayed on a similar job. The union has demanded his return to his former work.

Jandreau's letter pointed out that the contract "does provide for placing employees with longer service on like jobs by displacing other employees with shorter service."

The company has defended its action by arguing the exact classification of work, even though the union showed the jobs in dispute were very similar.

In the fourth case, involving a Class G test operator in Bldg. 69, supervision limited information on seniority to operators in that classification in Control. As a result, the woman took a piece work spot weld job in Punch Press. Jandreau pointed out that proper application of seniority would require consideration of Class G operators in the whole Test department. Howell in his written reply claimed the company was justified in applying seniority only with the Control Test section.

Benefit Dance

Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, will give a Valentine dance at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at Stanford Heights Fire Department Hall, Stop 3, Albany-Schenectady Rd., for the benefit of Garry Waldron, crippled in the war. Waldron is a 301 member. Tickets at 60 cents each may be obtained from bus drivers.

301 Organizing Drive Planned; Stewards Pledge All-Out Effort

The Stewards' Council voted approval Tuesday of Executive Board proposals for a 301 organization drive, to back the 1948 contract negotiations with the greatest strength in the shops. Contract sessions are expected to start this month.

During the period of the drive, set as Feb. 9 to Mar. 15, new members are to be admitted without paying initiation fees. The program will be presented to the membership meeting Feb. 17, and 18.

The Executive Board has ordered 15,000 union buttons to give out during the campaign. Shop stewards pledged they would start immediately on their job of seeing their groups are 100 per cent union. The union office will provide lists of non-members for the stewards.



Moving Day Near For Food Center

The 301 Food Center's last day at its present location, 1027 State St., will be Saturday, Feb. 14. The Food Committee is following up every possible lead in searching for new quarters.

Even if a new building is rented by Feb. 14 there will have to be at least a week's shut-down of the Center, and probably two weeks, to allow time for moving and for preparing the new place.

Last week union families bought \$7,419.48 worth of food and supplies at the Center: \$1,894.97 Thursday; \$2,977.62 Friday and \$2,546.89 Saturday.

\$400 Awarded for Injury

A Workman's Compensation referee has awarded \$400 to Peter B. Husty, 301 member, against GE for an injury which left an inch scar on his lip. Husty, a cabinet maker, was hurt July, 1946 when he was hit by a piece of wood which fell out of a chuck.

Michel Perlin, 301 attorney, handled the case.

Transfers

The Executive Board has asked the Constitution Committee to draft provisions to regulate the transfer of members into 301 from other unions.

Appoint Committee To Study Blood Bank

The first union member to respond to the appeal for blood donors in last week's EU News was Donald A. Dingman of Bldg. 84. He contacted the union office immediately and made a date to report at Ellis Hospital. His blood donation will be credited to a union member who was operated on during the strike and who has been pressed to repay the hospital's blood bank.

A committee has been appointed by the Executive Board to investigate the possibilities of setting up a blood bank at the hospital for the use of 301 members. The committee members, Helen Quirini, Albert Davis, William Stewart and J. A. Mele, will meet at 2 p.m. today at 301 hall.

Meanwhile the hospital has agreed to provide the union with a list of all members who owe blood repayments there.

The Stewards' Council voted approval Tuesday of establishing the committee.

GE Turns Down Veterans' Cases

The company has turned down the union's request that World War II veterans completing the machinists' apprentice course be graduated at \$1.45 an hour, instead of having to wait a year to progress to that rate.

At present anyone completing the apprentice course gets the lowest C rate, \$1.35 and by automatic progression of 5 cents each six months reaches the top C rate, \$1.45, at the end of a year.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau, who argued the case at the New York level last week, pointed out that many of the veterans involved are doing day work equivalent to B class. Allowance should be made for time they spent in military service, he said. The company insisted that it "can't do more for one veteran than for another" or for one group of veterans than another.

In reporting the case to the Executive Board, Jandreau said it was just another instance of GE's refusal to do anything for veterans that would cost money.

Those GE Price Cuts

Here's what a GE competitor thinks of those GE price cuts on television sets and electric blankets. Westinghouse News, the Westinghouse Electric Company's paper, said:

"While price reductions in any event are something to be thankful for, cases such as these are somewhat like a lady making a fuss over the fact that she has lost 10 pounds this winter — and forgetting the fact that she put on 15 pounds last summer.

"Her sister, who avoided putting on so much weight to begin with, can't understand what the shouting is all about."

BACK THE CONTRACT COMMITTEE WITH — 100 PER CENT UE SHOP

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Stewards and Board Approve Stand Taken by UE Officers

The 301 Executive Board and the Shop Stewards' Council this week approved a statement issued by UE representatives on the National CIO Executive Board pointing out the right of any CIO union to support or not support any candidate, under the CIO constitution. The matter will also come before the membership meeting Feb. 17 and 18.

President Albert J. Fitzgerald and Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak stated:

"In the past, full and complete freedom of political action and expression" on the part of the various CIO unions contributed to the "unity and fighting strength of the CIO".

The UE representatives opposed the position taken by the National CIO Board last week against a third party presidential candidate. Fitzgerald and Emspak said that "without entering at this time into a discussion on the merits of the third party" they felt compelled to register their dissent from the Board's action.

"It is most desirable for the CIO to be united in its political activity in support of generally progressive candi-

dates," they stated. "However, when differing viewpoints on candidates, parties and issues makes this unanimity unattainable, CIO should not widen division in our ranks."

They also said: "The CIO-PAC must continue to function effectively and can do so under present circumstances in Congressional and Senatorial elections."

Taylor Tries to Curb 'Galloping Inflation'

Idaho's hot potato, Senator Glen Taylor, doesn't believe "voluntary" agreements among business men will stop what he calls "galloping inflation." He said recently,

"If industry had a mind to bring down prices voluntarily, they've had 18 months to do it."

Taylor has introduced a strong bill to slow inflation down to a walk. It provides for a roll-back of food prices to the lowest point in 1947; roll-back of prices on manufactured goods; rationing; strong enforcement powers; no wage controls.

But its chances of passing are hardly worth mentioning!

**THE STRONGER THE UNION
THE BETTER THE CONTRACT**

Local Will Vote On Amendments

Several amendments to the Local 301 constitution will be proposed by the Constitution Committee at the membership meeting Feb. 17 and Feb. 18. Most of them are technical changes.

As requested by the Executive Board, the committee will present an amendment concerning the election of shop stewards and of Executive Board members. The amendment provides for the election of all shop stewards, under the supervision of the 301 Election Committee, late in December, instead of during October, and the election of Board members early in January.

The full text of the amendments was to be mailed this week to shop stewards, in accordance with the constitution, so that the proposals can be voted on at the membership meeting this month.

Frank Emspak was elected acting chairman at the committee's meeting Monday. He declined to be permanent chairman.

Attending Monday's meeting were Emspak, George Walker, Roy Lash and Anthony Campriello. Edward Wallingford, who also had been named to the committee, has declined to serve. The Executive Board will appoint a substitute.



Frank Emspak

Job Hunting Tough For Older Workers

Age has become an increasing obstacle to getting a job, according to the annual report of Milton O. Loysen, executive director of the State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance.

The majority of workers who received their full 26 weekly payments and exhausted their unemployment insurance benefit rights for the year without finding work were men over 60 and women over 40. Improved pensions are a major UE demand in the approaching GE contract negotiations.

20 Cent Raise

Wage increases averaging 20 cents an hour mark the first UE contract with the Canadian Landis Machine Company at Welland, Ontario, Canada.

V-J Day Was Signal for Weakening of Price Controls; It Didn't Take Long to Complete Destruction of OPA

This report of the steps by which price control was killed is summarized from an analysis by Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative.

Immediately after V-J Day, President Truman called for "a swift and orderly transition from war to peace." Emphasis was entirely on the "swift". Direct controls on production which helped stabilize prices—allocations, priorities, limitation of orders—were lifted. Business men were free to bid for materials by raising prices and prices rose!

Sabotage Inside OPA

The Administration promptly put into effect a series of price adjustment measures which drastically weakened price control:

1. Reconversion price increases. Manufacturers were allowed to get reconversion price increases which guaranteed prewar profit rates on a much larger expected volume of business. The corporations supplied their own information on costs. Labor was never let in on the secret of how these increases were figured.

2. Industry-wide increases. Price control was further undermined by the rapid spread of industry-wide price increases.

3. Wage-price policy. President Truman announced in August, 1945, that a wage increase without a general price increase was "imperative" to protect living standards and maintain purchasing power and employment. But no sooner was this statement made than the Administration began to run for cover. It yielded first to the steel industry and then to other industries in granting substantial price increases.

4. Decontrol. The final step in killing OPA was decontrol. In the seven months following V-J Day, a total of 566 products, including thousands of items, were released from control. By the end of June, 1946, when all controls were suspended for 25 days after the veto of the price control bill, 14 billion dollars worth of goods had been decontrolled.

Drive in Congress

The Republican and Democratic representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers in Congress started their drive in the spring and summer of 1946 to complete the killing of price control by amendments, permitting various price increases. Although President Truman vetoed the first amended price control bill, the Democratic Party failed to follow up this action with an uncompromising fight for a real bill to continue price controls.

Senator Barkley, Democratic Senate leader, agreed to a compromise amendment very little different from the Taft amendment which President Truman at-

tacked. And so, through action of both parties, the inflationary "price control" act of 1946 was passed.

Price Control Scrapped

In the summer and fall of 1946 the Administration's own agencies, the Price Decontrol Board and the Secretary of Agriculture, failed to use the powers they had to control prices. Dairy products, poultry and eggs, tobacco and petroleum were permanently decontrolled.

The decontrol of grains made meat control meaningless. In spite of a 12 per cent increase in meat ceilings over June, 1946, the packing trust refused to slaughter and process meat. President Truman knuckled under to this blackmail and decontrolled meat Oct. 14, 1946.

As of Oct. 6, 1946, there were 50 industry committees in OPA bombarding the Administration with decontrol petitions. Nov. 10, 1946, President Truman decontrolled all items except rents, rice and sugar.

Gaeth Program

The national UE broadcast by Arthur Gaeth can be heard at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday over WSNY and WROW. It is no longer carried on the FM station, WBCA, because the station is no longer affiliated with Mutual.

Reelected



Templeton

McCartin

William Templeton will serve again this year as chairman of the 301 Editorial Committee and Mary McCartin as secretary. They were elected at the committee meeting Tuesday.