

## IUE Tries New Maneuvers To End GE Losing Streak

In an obvious attempt to avoid further crushing defeats by GE workers, the IUE-CIO this week filed "unfair labor practices" charges against General Electric management.

### Nine Win 10 1/2c Boost In Welded Products

Nine men in Building 52 have won rate increases of 10 1/2c an hour in a grievance case taken up with works management.

The men involved are all production expeditors in the Welded Products division. They had been given a C classification which carried with it a rate of \$1.60 1/2 an hour. Shop Steward J. Richute checked the job description and compared it with comparable jobs in other parts of the works. He saw that the men were actually entitled to a B classification.

After getting no satisfaction from the foreman, he carried the case to the executive board. After several discussions with management, the company finally agreed to change the classification of Richute and eight of his co-workers. The new classification carries with it an hourly rate of \$1.71.

The eight other workers to receive the increase are A. Forget, E. Raubheimer, J. W. Falkenheimer, C. Munier, Jr., J. Campbell, D. Vitich, K. De Rose, and C. Bortell.

### Rome Strike Continues

General Cable workers in Rome voted Tuesday to continue their strike, now in progress since June 1, in face of company refusal to negotiate with UE Local 331. The strike affects more than 2,000 men and women in Rome, Los Angeles and Emeryville, Cal.

The company has tried every thing possible to inspire a back-to-work movement, but it has failed completely.



**CELEBRATING.** UE members at Fort Edward celebrate their one-sided victory over the IUE-CIO in last week's NLRB election. Pictured in the front row are Field Organizer Ann Adour, who assisted the local in the campaign, Ann Vecchio, Local President Al Bove, Business Agent Jack Terry and Marian Brulette.

The charges came on the heels of overwhelming victories by UE over IUE raiders in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls and in Niles, Ohio. The upstate New York vote was 489 to 123 for UE, and the tally in Niles was 160 to 102 for UE.

The IUE charges are aimed at preventing votes in Detroit, Oakland, Calif., and Tiffin, Ohio, all of which would undoubtedly go heavily for UE.

The fantastic basis for the IUE charges was that the company was "unfair" for signing a contract with UE while elections were "pending."

Actually, the contract negotiations started long before the CIO raiders had even petitioned for elections in any of the shops. And when the contract was signed, no elections were pending. The regional offices of the NLRB had thrown out all of the petitions on the grounds of a contract bar many weeks before.

However, a few days after the UE-GE contract was concluded, the Washington office of the NLRB reversed the decision of the regional boards and elections were ordered.

The UE members wanted no part of IUE interference with their new contract and the 7c to 13c wage increase it provided. They showed that in the first two elections. Apparently the Carey machine realized that it had worked itself into a trap, and instead of withdrawing and turning its attention to winning a pact for the GE workers in its shops, it decided to try one last political maneuver.



### TAKES MIKE

Charles Ferris rises to move approval of Business Agent Leo Jandreau's report on the duties of a shop steward at Monday's council meeting. The motion passed unanimously. (See story on page 1.)

## Urge All to Attend November Meeting for Dues Hike Vote

All UE Local 301 members were urged by the union's officers to attend the Nov. 3 membership meeting in order to take full advantage of the opportunity to vote on the proposed

50c a month dues increase.

The proposal has already been approved by a majority of the union's more than 16,000 members through a canvas which has been in progress in the shop for more than two months. The latest report on this canvas showed that about three out of four members who have placed themselves on record favor the boost.

If approved, the extra 50c a month would be placed in a special fund to be used for union defense and for building a new union hall. The money could be used for no other purpose unless the membership specifically voted to do so. All of the additional money would remain in Schenectady since the national union per capita fee of 75c a month and the district per capita of 10c a month will remain unchanged.

Current dues are \$2 a month to all employed members. Unemployed workers pay 10c a month to maintain their membership.

### Approve FEPC Report

The stewards' council Monday voted to recommend to the next membership meeting the approval of a report by the union's FEPC committee.

The report includes a suggestion that the union go on record as protesting the arrest and conviction of a young Negro worker in Albany. According to a study made by the committee, the worker, Raymond Van Hoesen, was arrested while on the way to his job and brutally beaten by police before a frameup charge was lodged against him.

### Seven Women Get Higher Pay Rate

Seven women in Building 40 have won a 9c hourly rate increase as a result of a grievance processed by Local 301.

The women are workers on a hand stator stacking group. Their former timing rate was 70c, but their duties clearly qualified them for a much higher timing rate. The case was referred to Steward Cleon Powell who brought it to Board Member Frank D'Amico. As a result of discussions with management and supervision, the union was able to move the timing rate up to 78c. This changes the A.E.R. from \$1.51 1/2 to \$1.60 1/2. The rate increase was retroactive to June 2.

The case was important because it represented another victory in the union's long battle to eliminate pay inequities with regard to women workers.

The seven women whose rate was increased are Elizabeth Waytho, Regina Kalinowski, Mary Doherty, Helen Braungart, R. Gusso, M. R. Boone and E. L. Andrews.

### Co-signers Responsible For Payment of Debts

A number of workers have come to the UE Local 301 office to find out what to do about notes they have co-signed and which they are being asked to pay. Union attorney Leon Novak wishes to point out that co-signers are fully responsible for debts if the borrower is unable or unwilling to pay them.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

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Friday, October 31, 1952



Canton, Ill.—UE Local 157 last week defeated a CIO autoworkers raid launched at the International Harvester plant here in the midst of the UE strike against the Harvester Corp. The vote was 656 to 520. Harvester company officials did everything possible to aid the raiders who relied on a red-baiting smear campaign and pledges to end the 10-week-old strike. However, as in more than a dozen recent elections in the farm equipment field, the workers refused to fall for the company-CIO line and voted decisively to continue fighting under the UE banner.

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Los Angeles—Former Vice President Dave Beck has been selected to replace Daniel Tobin as President of the AFL Teamsters' Union. Beck held the post for 45 years. He retires on a special pension of \$50,000 a year, the same amount as will be paid to Beck.

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Latrobe, Pa.—UE has won the right to represent the workers at the previously-unorganized Newcomer Products Co. plant. The UE victory in an NLRB election was scored in the face of a vicious company red-baiting attack on the union. The company campaign was aimed at producing a "no union" vote.

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Astoria, Ore.—The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union has warned that the McCarran-Walter immigration law will be a "club over the heads of foreign born members" if labor doesn't fight it.

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Charles City, Ia.—UE has organized and gained representation rights in two shops here. Workers at Rankin Sales and Capitol Tobacco have voted UE in two NLRB elections.

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Richmond, Calif.—Members of the CIO steelworkers in the Butler Man. Co. have just won a month-long strike. The 125 employees will get a 5c hourly wage boost, plus another 3 1/2c in health and welfare benefits as a result of the stoppage.

## IUE Accepts Pact Four Weeks Late

IUE-CIO members learned this week that the arrogant political maneuvering of their dictator, James Carey, costs them heavily. This lesson came with the announcement that Carey had finally reached a contract agreement with General Electric which gained them absolutely nothing that wasn't won by UE, and which went into effect exactly four weeks after the UE-GE pact.

The effective date of the IUE agreement with the company was Oct. 13, as against Sept. 15 for UE's accord with management. In other words IUE-CIO members lose the pay increase won by UE for a month. That means that GE day workers in IUE shops lost anywhere from \$11.20 to \$20.80—the price tag for Carey's fake "fight." Some piece workers will, of course, lose much more.

Despite his threats and blustering, Carey did not gain anything more on holidays or pensions. The only difference between the two contracts, aside from the effective date, was that the IUE-CIO will have a choice of three BLS index figures on which to base the percentage of wage increase, Sept. 15 (UE's date), Oct. 15 or Nov. 15. An IUE spokesman, quoted by the New York Times, admitted that this would not mean anything to GE workers affected by the contract.

The loss of money is a particularly bitter bill for the CIO members to swallow because they had voted overwhelmingly to accept the contract won by UE many weeks ago. However, in contrast to our union, the IUE decisions are not made by the membership but by dictator Carey. This was made clear by an IUE spokesman who told the Associated Press that "no membership ratification of the settlement is necessary."

Thousands of IUE-CIO members are waiting for Carey to make good on at least one of his promises—to resign if he had to take the settlement he did accept.

### Tuesday Paid Holiday

This coming Tuesday, Election Day, will be a paid holiday for UE members in the GE Schenectady works. Persons who work the day will be entitled to double time pay.



WILLIAM MASTRIANI



LEO JANDREAU

## District 3 Elects Jandreau And Mastriani to Top Posts

Two officers of UE Local 301 were elected Sunday to top leadership posts in District 3, which groups together 35,000 workers in upstate New York.

### Rigged BLS Index Cuts Pay Increase

Showing once more that it is rigged in favor of the big corporations and against the working people, the cost of living index issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics dipped just enough on Sept. 15 to deprive GE workers of 1/2c to 1 1/2c of the 7 1/2c to 13c wage increase negotiated by UE.

The pay hike was originally figured as being 5.76% of straight time earnings. This was calculated on the basis of the BLS figures for July 15. However, because the new contract went into effect on Sept. 15, it was agreed that the BLS figure for that date would be the decisive one. This week, the government announced that the index had declined one point, cutting the amount of the wage increase to 5.22%.

It was another case of the wage freeze machinery cracking down to rob working men and women of raises won through collective bargaining. UE has maintained from the beginning that the BLS index is manipulated to suit the needs of the big corporations. Union economists have proven that the cost of living is actually far higher than the index shows, and therefore the wage freeze formula, which ties wages to this index, is nothing more or less than a technique for robbing workers while corporation profits are allowed to rise without any real restrictions.

Unfortunately, CIO and AFL (Continued on Page 4)

Business Agent Leo Jandreau was chosen by the district council, meeting in Binghamton, for the job of district secretary-treasurer. He joins Lewis King, who was re-elected as president, on the area's delegation to the UE general executive board. This is the body which makes top policy decisions for the national union during the year. Jandreau was elected unanimously after being nominated by International Representative Michael Jimenez, a delegate from Local 331.

The other Schenectady leader who was named for a top post was Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani. Mastriani was elected as signatory trustee, a job which carries with it membership on the district executive board. Harold Buck of Local 331 was elected vice president of the district. Matthew Hubbard, Local 322, was chosen as sergeant-at-arms. Two others, George Koch, Local 305, and James Prato, Local 324, were elected as trustees.

The Binghamton meeting also selected the district executive board. This body is elected with representatives from different geographical areas in the state. The Schenectady, Fort Edward and Hudson Falls delegates chose Jack Terry of UE Local 332. Also selected were George Koch, Local 305 (Jamestown), Grady Lay, Local 326 (Buffalo), Fred Harman, Local 308 (Tonawanda), Richard Krotz, Local 323 (Syracuse), Michael Jimenez, Local 331 (Rome-Utica), James Prato, Local 324 (Binghamton) and John Elliot, Local 310 (Elmira).

## Call for Protest Of Matles Attack

Sinking to new depths of viciousness, the political agents of the big corporations last week attempted to carry forward their moves to deport James Matles by intimidating the UE Director of Organization's invalid brother into signing false statements about him.

Matles revealed the brutal tactics being used against him in a letter in which he urged all UE members to protest the attack being made on our union through this deportation proceeding. Wires and telegrams of protest should be sent to James McGranery, U. S. Attorney General, Washington, D. C.

The UE leader said that his brother, who was one of his witnesses when Matles received his citizenship papers 18 years ago, had been approached by immigration agents. They told him that unless he signed a false statement about Matles' affiliations, the government would try to take his citizenship away and deport him. Matles' brother has been in this country for 31 years.

The attack on Matles was described as a desperate attempt to break our union at Sunday's District 3 council meeting in Binghamton. It was pointed out that no one would have bothered Matles if he wasn't a leader of a fighting union which defends the interests of the working people against the big corporations. Right now, the government is moving against another union leader, International Representative William Sentner. He has been arrested on a Smith Act indictment.

Sentner, himself, spoke to the council meeting. He told of his years of service to the working people and of his fight against corrupt political control in Missouri, both as former head of the state CIO-PAC and as a UE leader. He described the efforts to stop his activities, first through the attempts to deport his wife, Toni Sentner, who has been in the U. S. since she was eight years old.

### Two Leave 301 Board

Al Davis attended his last UE Local 301 executive board meeting on Monday night. The veteran worker retires today after devoting many years to the union. He has served as board member for Buildings 5, 7, 9 and 37.

In another board change, Dick Sloeum replaced Bill Christman as member for Buildings 11 and 18. Christman stepped down on doctor's orders.

## ON THE JOB

**Bldg. 10C:** D. J. Driscoll objects to the supervisor's method of taking a time study and then eliminating certain elements in arriving at a price. The foreman admits that this is leveling the study, which is in effect a violation of contract. The union demands a normal time study on job 143D153, Operation 14, without this improper leveling.

**Bldg. 17:** On at least two occasions recently, two women have been sent home for lack of work before the end of their shift. On both of these occasions, the last time on Oct. 10, the women were without reasonable means of going home before the shift break. The union demands that the practice of sending people home in mid-shift be stopped.

The main bay group demands that the price on job 180-3644, 1081200, which was last run on Oct. 10, be adjusted to \$3.50 per thousand. This adjustment is necessary because the powdered iron used on the job would not slide.

**Bldg. 24:** Five women, Ann Ardicolo, Marie Kroll, Katherine Vinciguerra, Genevieve Jurkosko, and Beatrice Rugan, who were classified as A potentiometer card assemblers on the second shift, have been downgraded to B in direct violation of contract article VI, section 2. The union demands the restoration of A classification for these women with retroactive pay for all earnings lost because of the downgrade.

**Bldg. 40:** A group is objecting to the health hazard created by door 4 at the rear of the building, which is completely inadequate for the winter months. They have been told that a new door will be installed in about 4 months, obviously too late for the oncoming winter weather. The union demands immediate installation of a proper door.

**Bldg. 46:** On job 149C281-7, a duplicating operation, the voucher was marked T.S. The operator, Michael Bazilik, gave it to the foreman to establish a price, and the foreman came back with a 26c rate, saying it was taken from a table. Bazilik did not accept this price. The foreman refused to make an adjustment and the matter was taken to the asst. gen. foreman. A time study was agreed to resulting in a 35c price. But the foreman refuses to accept this price, claiming the operator was slow and did not give normal effort. These claims are completely false and the 35c price is demanded.

Incorrect planning on job 149C-767 resulted in a number of pieces having to be re-machined. Previous operators did not follow the planning cards because they were made aware of the errors. However, Kenneth Brownell was not aware of this and worked according to the planning card. Now his foreman is trying to penalize him by not paying for the 8 hours involved. This is violation of contract and the union demands full payment for the operator.

James Pfingner is classified as an A welder-hand specialist with

a rate of \$1.93. His 30 years of welding experience qualifies him completely for the welder-hand developmental rating which pays \$1.99. The union demands proper adjustment.

**Bldg. 60:** Milton Brady was ordered by his physician to take a prolonged rest. He contacted his assistant general foreman and asked for a 3-month leave. He was left with the impression that the leave was granted and did not work from June 1 to Oct. 1. During this period he was in constant contact with his foreman and reported on his physical progress. However, personnel now refuses to rehire him except as a new employee. The union demands full restoration of service.

Fred Greenwood is being discriminated against by his foreman with regard to distribution of overtime. The union demands an end to this discrimination and a completely equal overtime distribution among this group of craftsmen.

The tinsmith group protests the unequal distribution of overtime by supervision. The union demands adherence to contract article V, sect. 9.

**Bldg. 60A:** The union demands proper reclassification and increase in rate for the following who do not feel that their rate of \$1.99 and their classification as elevators and crane repairmen are adequate for their duties: Walter Kolpakas, R. MacFarlane, H. Battaglia, G. Mayle, E. Thomas, R. D. Kennedy, A. D. Manno, A. De Rossi, G. W. Carlson, A. J. Countermine, B. Paradis, M. Goodfellow, H. Stensel, C. Layman and C. McInerney.

**Bldg. 84:** Willard Kuschel was originally hired in 1944. In January, 1950, he was laid off for lack of work and never called back. After applying for work this past June, he was unable to obtain a suitable job until Oct. 6. The union demands full reinstatement of past service.

**Bldg. 273:** Frank Cawley believes that he should be classified as an A stockkeeper and not as a B stockkeeper, his present status. The union demands proper reclassification and increase in rate.

Louis Sargent, a returning service veteran, was told by Turbine personnel that his vacation would be computed on the basis of the time he has been back at work rather than on the full preceding 52-week period. The union feels that this is unfair treatment and demands an end to this discrimination against a veteran.

**Bldg. 285:** The group under Foreman Fetter protest lack of working space, unsafe working conditions, lack of material and hardware, improper issuance of jobs which are 30% to 50% incomplete, loss of earnings and foreman's practice of offering transfers to men unwilling to work under the present conditions. The union demands correction of these many contract breaches.

Knolls: D. Bengen demands a rate of \$1.65 based on her duties and ability.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-toroman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

On Oct. 1, a group protested method of distribution of work and obtained a supervision agreement that whenever possible an operator should be allowed to finish a job which he begins. On Oct. 3, the union asked payment of average earnings in cases where the completion of a job by one operator is not possible. Supervision stated that it would make "equitable payment," and later clarified this by saying it meant average earnings. However, this is not being done and the union demands supervision live up to its commitments.

A group of milling machine operators protests the increased feed in milling slots in generator shafts because the jobs are being Brinell tested for hardness. Actually the former maximum speed of 1 1/4" per minute was a just one and the union demands its restoration.

Leo Jachlewski has been issued a warning notice for increasing the table feed on his machine. Since the issuance of this notice does not jibe with previous supervision instructions, he feels that the warning notice is completely unjustified.

Alex Fassone, Marc Lambert, James Murrell, John Rucinski and Ray Vince do not believe they have been given proper consideration for upgrading to grinding jobs for which they are qualified. They correctly feel that one of them should have been given the recent A opening on 1st shift. This opening was given to an employee with low service. The union demands that the first available opening should be given to these men.

Tool crib attendants protest the assigning of workers of other classifications to their group. They feel that their services should be fully utilized before any such moves are made by supervision.

Lathe operators demand proper A classification on jobs where A operators are doing A work.

A group whose job definition covers the operation of a hydrogen furnace protests the addition of the operation of a nitriding furnace to their duties. The union demands a proper rate increase to compensate for the additional duties.

F. Marrotta and G. La Point demand payment for 5 1/2 hours of lost time to which they are entitled.

A group has four leaders, each operating a machine, and two leaders over them. In accordance with contract Art. VI-7, the union demands that the 2 floor leaders be paid 2 steps over the other 4.

Knolls: D. Bengen demands a rate of \$1.65 based on her duties and ability.

## Business Organ Shows UE Leads in Pay Hikes

The magazine, U. S. News and World Report, which makes no bones about being a spokesman for the big corporations, has unintentionally revealed the reason for the attacks on UE by company agents in the government—UE is a leader among all unions in winning wage increases for its members.

This revelation was made in the Oct. 24 issue which contained an article which made a pitch for an even harder wage freeze. The magazine published a chart with the article which shows that UE has won 25c an hour in wage increases in the electrical manufacturing industry. This compared with the national average of 12c an hour and placed our wage increases in second place among the major industries of the country.

Only rubber tires, where the situation is complicated by a six-day week setup, stood above the electrical industry. Auto with its CIO-negotiated escalator clauses was far back with an average boost of only 17c.

The article also revealed that since 1939, UE has raised the average wage in the industry from 70c an hour to \$1.75. All figures were based on straight time hourly earnings.

Of course, the magazine goes on from there to state that the working people are making too much money. It uses the rigged BLS cost of living index to prove this point. No mention is made of huge corporation profits.

### Prince Gave Views

This week, Republican Congressional candidate Bernard Kearney's views are given in the EU News. The views of his opponent, David Prince, have already been reported.

Prince spoke at a membership meeting and said he was opposed to Taft-Hartley and to laws limiting civil liberties. However, he later claimed to have misunderstood a question and reversed his stand in opposition to the Smith Act.

## Kearney Gives Views to 301, Says He Opposes T-H Repeal

Rep. Bernard Kearney this week told UE Local 301 of his views on the Taft-Hartley act, the McCarran and Smith acts, pensions and other matters vitally concerning the union. His own words clearly stamped the congressman, who is running for re-election in the 32nd District, as a willing servant of the big corporations and an opponent of almost everything advocated by American labor.

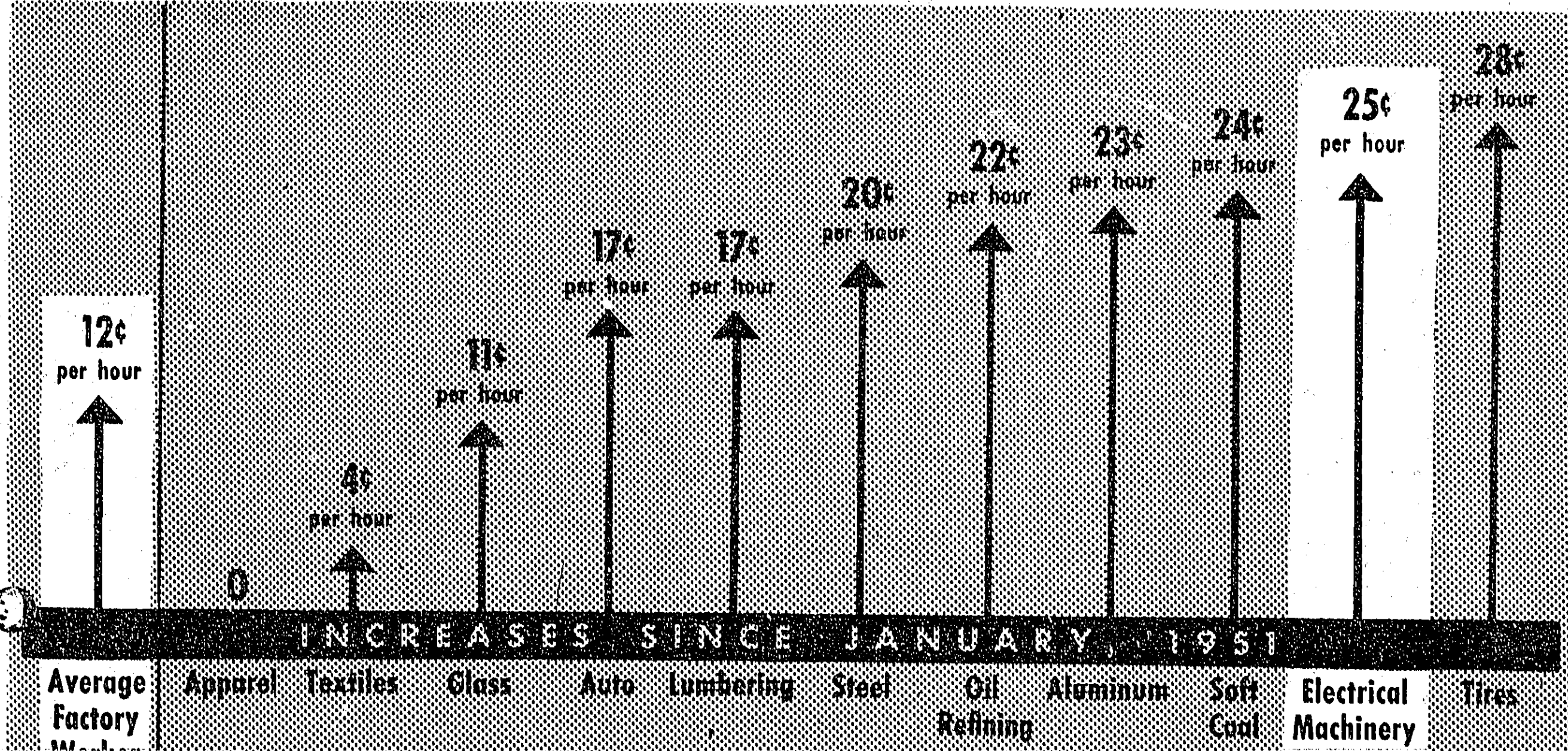
The expression of views came in a letter to the local office. This letter resulted from a questionnaire submitted to Kearney after he had been unable to accept an invitation to speak at a local membership meeting along with his Democratic opponent, David Prince.

Asked whether he favored repeal of Taft-Hartley, Kearney answered with complete frankness that he did not. He made the astounding claim that the law, condemned by every labor organization in the country as a crippling "slave labor" measure, actually has made unions "more effective than ever before."

His answer to a question on where he would stand on proposals to impose government control of the labor movement indicated that Kearney would be likely to line up behind such moves if the corporations decided to carry through their plans in this direction. He said that while he was generally of the belief that "labor and management should resolve their own problems," he felt that the "national security comes first and (the government) must have

the power to protect itself." Kearney's stand on laws crippling the civil liberties of the American people was equally contrary to the position taken by organized labor. He spoke out strongly for the Smith Act, under which a number of labor leaders have already been arrested, and for the McCarran Act, which provides for the construction of concentration camps in our country. He also viewed with favor the McCarran-Walter immigration law which discriminates against many national groups including Italians, Spaniards, Negroes and Eastern Europeans. This law has been bitterly condemned by many civic and church authorities including Magr. Cushing, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston.

On one issue, Kearney did agree with the stand taken by UE. He stated that he was in favor of a compulsory federal fair employment practices act.



UE LEADS. Reproduction of a chart showing that UE won some of the highest wage increases in the country since the start of the wage freeze. The chart and an article on the subject appeared in the big business magazine, U. S. News and World Report (see story above).

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