

## Meeting Announcement

The regular Local 301 March membership meetings will be held Monday, March 15, at the Local office, 301 Liberty St.

The meetings will take up the question of Union affiliation now before the membership — specifically the recommendation to disaffiliate from the UE and affiliate with IUE-CIO.

Second Shift . . . 1 P.M.  
(Before Work)

First and Third Shifts . . . 7:30 P.M.

## Former UE Locals Endorse Our Move, Heartened by Unity

As we go to press, dozens of telegrams were coming in to the local office from GE locals all over the country praising the forceful action on behalf of 301 Leaders to "finally unite the GE chain."

The telegrams for the most part are from former UE locals in GE which are now in the IUE-CIO.

Throughout the country these Locals have recognized the significance of this step and are congratulating the entire body of leadership in Local 301 for the move.

The wires come from Lynn . . . Pittsfield . . . Cleveland . . . Fort Wayne . . . Holyoke . . . Syracuse . . . Fitchburg . . . and dozens of other cities where UE once held bargaining rights, but where GE workers moved early to unite in IUE-CIO.

All of the wires emphasize one point: Now we can be strongly united and really take GE and Boulware on . . . now we can throw GE's pitiful "first" offer back in their face and say, "Look, here's what the GE workers want and we intend to get it!"

Some of the telegrams have pointed out that in IUE-CIO, all GE workers will go into negotiations with the company during the next two to three months to negotiate a new contract, with a substantial wage increase heading the list of demands.

And because we will be united in IUE-CIO, we can pound out some real gains.

## Contract Belongs To Members

Members of Local 301 know that we have an excellent Local Supplement on Seniority which protects us from infringement by GE management.

The application of the contract . . . the policing and enforcement of the contract determines just what a local gets out of a contract. We shall continue to apply and enforce the IUE-CIO Contract in the same manner as we have enforced contracts in the past.

Therefore, the standards that we have today will not be changed one bit as a result of the movement into IUE-CIO.

Our Local Supplement specifically spells out our seniority set-up and that shall continue just as it has in the past.

Our piece-prices will not be changed in any way, for we shall continue to enforce our rate guarantees just as we have in the past.

We in Local 301 negotiated our Seniority Supplement; UE did not get it for us.

At the same time UE will try to smear our Local Leaders—the very men who negotiated our outstanding Local conditions, the very men whom UE has praised in the past for outstanding Trade Union leadership.

The IUE-CIO National Contract with GE is parallel to the UE Contract. Therefore there will be no loss of anything when we join IUE-CIO.

We can lose nothing. We can only gain. For when we go before the company in negotiations this year, we will be backed up by 98,000 GE workers and then we will be able to win an improved and better National Contract.

## In Local 301 The Members Come First

The Officers and Board members of Local 301 had no intention of letting this major story get kicked around in the daily newspapers before it was first presented to the membership in this edition of the 301 News.

To even certain "scoop" papers and headline writers published the story before we had even known it.

## Officers Assure Members Local Funds Are Protected

Local 301 Officers have taken "every necessary precaution" to protect the funds, the property, the assets and all belongings of Local 301 members from any encroachment by outside agents who may attempt to steal them, Local Officers have assured the members.

The officers made it perfectly clear that all money and property in the hands of the Local is "the sole property of the members of this Union."

"It belongs to no one else, and no one else will ever get hold of it," they stated.

However, the National UE "may try" to come here and "through some phony gimmick or maneuver" try to seize the funds or make it

look like the money actually belongs to them.

On Wednesday afternoon the Officers wrote the company that all dues check-off money should be paid to the Local and to no other body.

The National office needs the money—of that there can be no doubt. Right now it is running so deep in the red that it is in desperate financial straits.

## "I Congratulate You"

The following telegram was received at the office of Local 301 Wednesday noon:

"To the officers and members of Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

"I am advised that the overwhelming majority of Officers, Executive Board members and Stewards of Local 301 have gone on record favoring return to the family of CIO and affiliation with the IUE-CIO.

"I also understand that the union's officers have unanimously upheld that they will recommend the affiliation to the membership and will urge all other UE locals in GE to do likewise.

"We will be glad to welcome Local 301 back to the CIO as part of the IUE-CIO. Your unity with the IUE-CIO will give you the solidarity of more than 98,000 IUE-CIO members in GE and more than 400,000 in the electrical industry.

"Your organizational strength and collective bargaining power will be enormously increased and your solidarity with six million other CIO members will end your isolation from the rest of the American labor movement.

"I congratulate the officers, Executive Board members and Stewards on your decision, and express the hope that the membership will enthusiastically ratify this proposal to strengthen Local 301 by unification with the majority of other workers in your industry.

"Walter P. Reuther, President, CIO, 718 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C."

## Local's Stand On McCarthy Remains Firm

Business Agent Leo Jandreau set the record straight immediately after the Officers and Board members recommended the affiliation with IUE-CIO.

In answer to a question from a newspaper reporter he declared:

"This proposal is in no way connected with the petitions being circulated in the shop regarding GE workers who refused to answer questions before the McCarthy committee.

"As a matter of fact, this idea has been considered for the entire past year. The announcement of our recommendation to the membership was not in the slightest way connected with or prompted by the petitions."

"In fact," he added, "the Officers have decided that we should bring charges against the four members who inspired and promoted the petitions."

Another reporter asked Mr. Jandreau if his "views on McCarthy" have changed in any way since he condemned McCarthy and his methods two weeks ago.

"They have not," Mr. Jandreau replied. "I still feel as I always have about McCarthy and I neither praise nor condemn him to fall the same way."

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## MEMBERS ENDORSE UNITY IN IUE-CIO



Both meetings of Local 301 voted overwhelmingly yesterday to disaffiliate from UE and affiliate with IUE-CIO. The vote in the afternoon meeting was unanimous. Of more than 650 people at the second meeting, only 14 voted against the proposal.

The membership meetings thus enthusiastically ratified the meetings in the plant last week when 11,307 members voted to join IUE-CIO.

Thus members of Local 301 are now unified in one solid block comprising 98,000 workers mobilized against the GE Company.

The vote followed the regular democratic procedures of Local 301. It followed a full and open discussion of the subject in which both National UE officers—James Matles and Julius Emspak—addressed the meetings.

The Union Hall was completely full. All raphers were kept out in order to permit Local 301 members to attend. Many members

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had to stand because seats were not available.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau presented the case for joining the biggest Union in the entire electrical manufacturing industry. His case was a

### **File Petition Today For Quick Election**

Immediately after the membership meetings yesterday, Local 301 proceeded to take action to obtain a quick election.

Local 301 Attorney Leon Novak will go to New York today to file the petition with the NLRB.

"Now that the members have spoken," commented Brother Jandreau, "the outsiders should respect the wishes of the members and let the members carry out their desires in an early election conducted democratically in the plant. If National Officers attempt to stall us and throw up legal road blocks, the only people who will gain from it will be Boulware and top Company officials."

concise, factual account of the basic issues confronting GE workers today.

**When Matles got the floor he dodged the issues.**

Rather than meet the issues head-on, he ducked them and instead tried to smear the officers and leaders of Local 301 and condemn, vilify and intimidate the members. Matles' theme was fear. But this was effectively destroyed when Brother Jandreau, in finishing his speech declared:

**"We have nothing to fear but fear itself, and we of Local 301 aren't in the habit of running from a fight."**

In addition to the national officers and Brother Jandreau, Local officers and members also discussed the proposal.

Chief Steward Bill Mastriani cleared the air of confusion created by Matles and Emspak when he said:

**"This move we're making now isn't the result of pressure from politicians — it's because of the basic Trade Union issues involved and because in order to negotiate with Boulware we have to have more strength."**

Brothers Bill Stewart, Fred Sheehan, and Joe Mangino also discussed the proposal and endorsed it 100 percent.

In addition to joining IUE-CIO, the members also voted to protect the Local Union funds. This now assures the members that no stealing or seizing of the funds by outsiders can take place.

The meetings were chaired by President James Cognetta.

After the meetings were over, Brother Jandreau stated the feelings of the people when he said:

**"Now that the members have acted and the outsiders have been overwhelmingly rejected, I hope that these outsiders will pack their bags and get out of town. Their continued presence here to carry on a campaign of disruption and smear will only play into the hands of the company."**

### **Disrupters Kept Out**

**Only Local 301 members were permitted to attend the meetings yesterday.**

**Michael Jiminez, who is not a member of Local 301 and a gang of outsiders attempted to strong-arm their way into the hall to disrupt the meeting.**

**In his speech to the meeting, Brother Jandreau effectively exposed this outsider as a conspirator of a "Trojan Horse" clique that has been trying to work its way into the affairs of Local 301 for the past year.**

## YESTERDAY'S MEETINGS

Schenectady GE workers yesterday got a taste of IUE-CIO "democracy." Here's how it shaped up:

Two meetings were held which were obviously rigged and stacked. To accomplish this, the IUE-CIO turned night into day. Starting at 8 o'clock yesterday morning, several hundred people from the day shift were marched into the UE Local 301 Hall on lost time. Most of them were kept the entire day. They made it virtually impossible for all but a few second shift workers to squeeze into the Hall for their own meeting. The few second shift workers who did get in had to be screened by Joe Saccocio who told members, "I am the law."

For the first shift meeting at 7:30 P.M., the same rigging and stacking tactics were used. Again, the rank-and-file union members were forced by cops to brave the freezing temperatures and biting winds to "listen" to their union meeting from the streets. Many observers estimated that the cost of the rigged meetings in lost time payments was \$20,000.

When the votes were taken, cameras were turned on all those who dared vote to protect their union, their contract and their job security against IUE-CIO attacks.

During the day shift meeting, many sought in vain to take the floor and speak against the illegal secession resolution.

The only reason that Jandreau and the IUE-CIO had to stack the meeting was that they had no arguments to answer the facts presented by UE Director of Organization James J. Matles and by UE National Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak, who spoke as a charter member of Local 301.

Against the UE record of 17 years of gains for the people, the IUE-CIO had only its own failures and red-baiting to show. That's why the big rush to destroy in a week what took 17 years to build.

But the blitz has failed. The issues are still the same-- how to keep the IUE-CIO dictators from wrecking our union, our contract, our grievance procedure and our democratic way of running our union.

Jandreau has on many occasions testified to the superiority of the UE contract over the IUE-CIO agreement. He has frequently blasted Carey as a disrupter of the unity of GE workers and as an agent of McCarthy.

Schenectady GE workers know that this is true, and the IUE-CIO knows it. Now we can expect that the IUE-CIO, in its desperation will try every trick in the book to confuse the workers. It is important to be on guard against attempts to force you to sign phony IUE-CIO check off cards. Don't sign!

Remember your UE agreement runs until April, 1955. The basic gains are protected in our contract regardless of recession or depression in the coming year. The IUE-CIO contract expires in June of this year. Carey has to put everything on the auction block.

One fact stands out. Only UE can protect Schenectady GE workers, their democratic union and their contract safeguards.

Issued by UE Local 301, 201 1/2 Broadway, Schenectady, N. Y.  
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