



## UE Members Hit Klan Violence

A special assistant Federal attorney should be sent to Florida to prosecute and bring to justice those Klan-minded elements responsible for the recent racial and religious violence in the state of Florida and the murder of Harry T. Moore, Florida state-wide coordinator for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

That was the unanimous demand of the UE Local 301 membership meeting, held January 7 in the Union Hall.

### Protest Bombing

Introduced by the Local 301 FEPC Committee, the following resolution was adopted:

"UE Local 301 condemns the action of the Klan-minded elements of Florida for the 18 bombing attacks in the last three months against Catholic churches, Jewish Synagogues and the Negro people of Florida.

"The most recent outrage, the bombing of the home of Harry T. Moore, state coordinator of the NAACP, resulted in the murder of

Mr. Moore and his wife. These actions have aroused resentment from liberal and labor organizations throughout the country.

"The whole world is questioning the kind of democracy that can permit such outrages to go unpunished.

"We call upon President Truman and Attorney-General McGrath to appoint a special assistant federal attorney to go to Florida and prosecute and bring to justice those responsible for these actions."

### ELECT CONFERENCE BOARD DELEGATES

UE Local 301's three delegates to the UE General Electric National Conference Board for the coming year will be Leo Jandreau, business agent, James Cognetta, president and Fred Pacelli. They were elected at meetings held January 7.

The National Board coordinates national GE bargaining policy and strategy and negotiates the GE master contract.

## Unemployment Insurance Changes Disqualify Many Thousands in State

The changes which were made last year in the Unemployment Insurance Laws of New York State so radically affect the fundamentals of the State's Unemployment Insurance system as to raise the suspicion that there was an organized effort to keep the proposed changes a secret in order to ward off the certain opposition of indignant organized workers in—the State.

### Need 20 Weeks

Without going into detail as to the changes which have been brought about by the last State Legislature, some of which were covered by me in previous articles appearing in this paper, it is clear that the following results have been brought about by the Hughes-Brees amendments:

The change in the qualifying wage earning formula, which now bases an unemployed worker's weekly benefits on his average earnings during the year before his unemployment if he has worked at least 20 weeks during the preceding year has the effect of disqualifying tens of thousands of unemployed workers entirely from any benefits whatsoever. In fact, New York State, the richest State in the United States insofar as employer income is concerned, now has the dubious distinction of having the strictest qualifying requirements in the country!

### New Kick-backs

Moreover, the new merit rating system with its provisions of rebates to employers not only encourages employers vigorously to oppose the payment of unemployment insurance benefits to the workers whom they themselves lay

off or discharge but it does not even have the virtue of giving rebates to small employers. The law, as written, will give bigger rebates to large corporations and will likely increase the cost to small employers.

### More Taxes

In addition, the confusion which is raised for unemployed workers by the creation of individual "benefit and base years" instead of a single benefit and base year for all unemployed is likely to increase the cost of administering the new laws. The Federal Bureau of Employment Security has already found it necessary to warn the State that the Federal Government which furnishes the funds to administer the system could not obligate itself to provide all of the costs of an unnecessarily costly revision. If the Federal Government were to carry out this threat, the workers of this State might find themselves in the position of paying, through additional taxes, the cost of the new system which hurts them.

The Unemployment Insurance Law needs a thorough revision.

The law should be extended to cover all gainfully employed in the State.

It should provide for allowances for dependents.

Merit rating should be repealed.

The highest quarterly earnings as the basis for computing benefits should be restored.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The UE 301 Membership Meeting on Monday, January 7, unanimously voted opposition to the Hughes-Brees amendment described above.

## Executive Board Election Postponed To Permit Study

The election of a new UE 301 Executive Board scheduled for today has been postponed as a result of a decision by the membership meeting on January 7 to allow more time for the study of revisions of the board. Recommendations for streamlining the local board which has become larger than most national boards will be submitted at the February membership meeting.

Originally set up as a 14-member board with one for each 1000

union members, the board grew in the course of meeting temporary situations. The present size has been found unwieldy and costly by the current board and preceding boards.

Changes under consideration would provide a board member for every 500. Involved in the plans for streamlining the local's top policy group is the strengthening of the stewards' system and the improvement of service to the membership.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 18, 1952

## Take It From Here . . .

Sidney, Ohio—Mayor Clarence E. Harp declared December 13, "Eliminate the Wage Freeze Day." The wage freeze board is denying wage increases that employers had agreed to pay, the proclamation declared. The situation, said the mayor, can only be corrected by "allowing the companies and employees to determine wage rates through collective bargaining without restrictions."

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Detroit, Mich.—A new wage increase for over 1,700 workers at Vickers, Inc., raises wages 14 cents an hour. Won by UE Local 907, it brings the average straight time rate at Vickers to \$2.15 an hour. The increase tops any won by the IAM-AFL and IUE-CIO at Vickers plants by a nickel to a dime.

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San Francisco—The International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union executive board has recommended strike action, if necessary, to break through the wage freeze and secure benefits won in its agreements. ILWU also pledged to work with other unions on a national or local level to resist the freeze.

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Cincinnati—UE Local 766 members working at the American Steel Foundries have won a 12 cent wage increase, with the night shift premium boosted from 10 to 12 cents an hour.

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San Francisco—Unless the Wage Stabilization Board approves payment of full wages for a shorter work week, members of the Marine Cooks & Stewards might refuse to sign on ships after January 18, national officers of the union warned this week.

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St. Louis, Mo.—UE Local 1128 members climaxed a wage campaign at the Benjamin Air Rifle shop with a 10 cent package.

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Brockville, Ontario (Canada)—An eight to 13 cent an hour increase has been won by UE members working at the Phillips Electrical Works, Ltd. The increases will also be effective in the company's plant in Montreal. Phillips' workers previously won nine to 15 cents in April, 1951 negotiations.

# Our Delegates See Wage Freeze Board

## UE Delegation Goes to Washington, Demands Unfreezing of Pay Increase

A bus-load of UE members from the Schenectady Works left for Washington, D. C. and the Wage Stabilization Board Wednesday night, 10:00 P.M. to urge prompt approval of the 3.58 percent wage increase.

## Putting Heat on the Freeze



Some of Local 301's Executive Board Members are shown above turning in petitions for the Wage Stabilization Board from their buildings. Calling for swift approval of the last GE pay increase, these petitions were taken to Washington by the Union's delegation.

## State Unemployment Law Needs Changing

UE 301's Executive Board has mapped an all-out fight against crippling amendments to the state unemployment insurance law and for improvements in aid to the jobless.

With New York expected to have one-quarter of the nation's jobless by mid-year, according to the Industrial Commissioner's office, the fight for better unemployment

protection takes on key importance. The Hughes-Brees amendments—which were pushed by General Electric—cut thousands off from unemployment benefits, raised to 20 the number of weeks required to qualify and enormously increased kick-backs to corporations.

The Executive Board called for

The CIO-supported Wage Freeze Board, at press time, had not acted on any of the 60 GE agreements on wages and holidays.

The UE Local 301 delegates rode all night, banners advertising their mission as "Washington-Bound . . . To Get Our Wage Increase Out of the Deep Freeze!"

### To Discuss Rates

On the delegation were toolmakers who plan to question WSB members about the scuttled recommendations for higher rates for tool makers. A WSB sub-committee had surveyed rates and said they should be raised. The report was thrown out by the board whose members include CIO and AFL officials.

The shop-elected delegates were to be met by UE's Washington representatives and led to WSB headquarters which is conducting a sit-down strike on 15,000 agreements for higher wages and fringe benefits.

### UE Leads Fight

UE is leading the fight nationally to break the log jam holding up needed money due millions of working men and women. In below freezing weather, UE pickets, joined by AFL and CIO unionists, recently marched before WSB officials in Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, New York, Buffalo, Erie, Chicago in nationwide demonstrations against the wage freeze.

In other communities, WSB officials were visited and pre-

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### GE Doesn't Need a Fighting Fund . . . WE DO

"How about it, brothers and sisters? let's make our union strong by filling out those pledge cards and getting in our five bucks now for our UE Local 301 Fighting Fund. See your steward today."



**UE DEFENSE FUND**  
Local 301

**UE MEMBER'S PLEDGE CARD**

I, the undersigned, hereby pledge to contribute the sum of \$5 (paid as indicated hereon) to the UE Local 301 Defense Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized collector \_\_\_\_\_  
Bldg. \_\_\_\_\_ Local 301 UE, Schenectady

DATE	BALANCE PAID
PAID IN FULL	\$5
Total Pledge	\$5.00
Cash with Pledge	\$
Balance	\$

### A Fighting Fund for a Fighting Union!

## Open Drive to Build UE 301 Defense Fund

With big struggles shaping for GE workers in the months ahead, wage negotiations in March and contract renewal in September, UE Local 301 this week launched a drive to build a local Fighting Fund to meet any emergency.

Target of the campaign is to collect \$5 from each member, with the funds to be kept by the local, to be deposited in a separate account and all expenditures to be authorized by Local 301's membership.

Local 301's Executive Board declared this fund is needed "to protect our members against any outside forces seeking to undermine our living standards, send prices and taxes higher, freeze wages and endanger the security of all of us. We must be prepared for any action to win our just demands and ward off raids by other unions who

have not done a job for their own members."

The drive will be conducted by authorized stewards or members with proper credentials, with the member receiving a receipt from the collector after making his donation. Each member on making his full contribution of \$5 will receive a special button to wear.

In addition to Local 301's monthly financial report, a report will be issued each month on the Fighting Fund's status.

Local leaders pointed out this last week the great value of such a fund in the past two years. At one time, Local 301 had \$100,000 in such a fund, which was needed and used to beat off attempts by IUE-CIO raiders in the past two years to split and disrupt the unity of GE workers in the Schenectady Works.

## Women Get Runaround

Personnel has been sending long service women, caught in current layoffs, to Aeronautics Bench Assembly and Fabricate Lighthouse Tubes. The catch is that if the women cannot, for one or another reason, fit in, they are offered second shift jobs or shown the gate.

Three women with seven to nine years' service were unable to do the fine work required in Bench

Assembly and although the hospital upheld them, they were told, sorry no work. This is one of a number of cases taken up with Manager Lewis J. Male yesterday. Also scheduled for the discussions was the conduct of certain foremen in Lighthouse Tubes who try to discourage long-seniority women from taking jobs.

### SIGNS 'EM UP, SAYS IT'S EASY

Jimmy DeMasseo, executive board member from Building 49, when asked last week how he was able to sign up 50 new members in four days said:

"Just get some cards and in your spare time ask those who aren't in to join. The union's done the big job of convincing by fighting for better conditions, settling grievances, protecting job rights."

### SEEK UPGRADING FOR MILLWRIGHTS

The Union is vigorously pressing a grievance in Bldg. 60 for a group of class B millwrights who requested upgrading to A. When the request was first raised, the foreman penalized them by taking away their helpers and assigning them to jobs which require less responsibility.

These millwrights also charge that the foreman has for six months been pursuing a policy of favoritism on upgrading, instead of selecting the best qualified journeymen for upgrading to A millwrights. The foreman ignores seniority, it is charged.

The grievance will be argued with Lewis J. Male, Works manager, with Local 301 insisting that the millwrights be given their old jobs back at the A rate, or given the A rate for the jobs to which they were transferred.

### Aluminum Workers Vote To Strike

Massena, N. Y.—Employees of Aluminum Corporation of America, last week voted 2,605 to 27 in favor of strike action. Members of the Aluminum Workers Union, AFL, they are in process of negotiating a new contract. The strike vote was over seniority violations.

## IUE CAN'T GET QUORUM IN WESTINGHOUSE

Things have gotten so bad for IUE in the East Pittsburgh plant of Westinghouse that the local is complaining in public that it can't get 50 out of 15,000 to attend membership meetings. Says Charles Copeland, IUE local president, in the January 3 issue of the union's paper.

"We are having a very poor attendance lately, in fact, the last meeting had to be called off for lack of a quorum. (A quorum is 50 members). If this continues during working hours."

UE's there maintain that after two years of IUE the workers in Pittsburgh will solve the IUE meeting problem—by voting IUE out of the place.

## HIRING BEGINS IN LARGE M & G

UE Local 301 has been informed by management that the working force in Large Motors and Generators (Bldg. 18), scene of recent layoffs, will be doubled in the near future. The union has notified the company that it expects qualified lower-rated people to be upgraded to fill the new openings. Hiring has begun.

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**

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Schenectady GE Local 301 UE

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301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

# Political Stooge of Carey and Co. Challenges Right to Choose Union

Unable to peddle his sell-out leadership to GE Schenectady workers, or to tens of thousands of electrical workers throughout the country, IUE-CIO president, James B. Carey, has a plan to end free collective bargaining elections.

The plan, in brief, calls for giving collective bargaining status only to those unions which are politically and employer approved. Disapproved unions would be stripped of bargaining rights, under the plan, even if chosen by a majority of workers in any given plant!

It is not an easy plan to sell to Americans who believe in free elections, a free labor movement, without which—no free America!

### Man With a Grudge

Carey took his subversive proposition to one anti-labor Congressman after another, seeking a sponsor. Finally, he persuaded Senator Hubert Humphrey (D. Minn.), a man with a grudge against UE, to front for the scheme.

This Sen. Humphrey had gladly accepted UE support when he ran for mayor of Minneapolis on a pro-labor platform but when UE urged his defeat for senator because of his anti-labor record as mayor he, of course, labelled UE "Communitistic." Now, he wants any union so labelled to be put outside the factory gates on the say-so of himself, Carey and their political and corporation friends.

### Union-Busting

GE workers in Schenectady will not be alone in resenting and fighting the smelly scheme. Members, even officers of CIO, AFL and independent unions are sure to oppose it. For, this union-busting weapon can be used against all unions and against locals within unions which, because of outstandingly militant policies are already being red-smearred, as for example, the largest local in the world, Ford local 600, UAW-CIO.

## Having Babies Sign Of "Undependability" According to Foreman

Does having a baby make a worker "undependable?" Foreman Sotile, Bldg. 69, thinks so. . . .

Mrs. Mae Close, 12 years senior, left her engraving job to have a baby. Upon her return, Sotile placed her on a lower-rated de-assembly job saying she was "not dependable." The union found that her old job had been given to a woman with 1950 seniority. Mae Close is back on engraving.

Sen. Humphrey gave the game away in an interview with U. S. News & World Report, Dec. 28, 1951. Any union, he told the big business magazine, following a line "which ONE is able to identify as the Communist line . . . shall not be given bargaining status in terms of a collective bargaining contract." Even if that union gets a majority," he emphasized.

### "Communitistic"

Note that "one", meaning any one of a stable of anti-labor politicians, professional liars can do the "identifying" for corporations which have called the fight for higher wages, better working conditions, industrial democracy "Communitistic" and "Communist-inspired" since American unions began.

"You're suggesting depriving them of bargaining rights," the interviewer said to the Senator. "That's correct," said Humphrey.

"Do you think the unions would agree to this?" he was then asked. "I have not the slightest idea at this time," Carey's friend replied. "Whether anybody agrees with it or not, I think we ought to proceed."

### Co. Loves It!

Small wonder that Humphrey boasted that he has the "whole-hearted support of management" for his despicable aims. Among those he consulted, it is known, is General Electric and his immediate target is UE, the union which cracked the open shop in the electrical industry, routed the company unions, won higher wages and better working conditions for its members.

Sen. Humphrey need not doubt that the membership will rally around the union. The UE 301 Executive Board last Monday voted unanimously to acquaint the membership with the danger through plant meetings and literature.

Fantastic as the Humphrey-

### VOTE AID TO UE STRIKERS

Striking UE members in other locals were voted aid at the January 14 meeting of the Local 301 Executive Board.

The Board voted a \$100 contribution to UE members at the Markel Electric Co. in Buffalo. This is the local's second contribution in this bitter and drawn out fight.

It was also voted to contribute \$50 to UE strikers at the Harris Bed & Spring Co. in Scranton, Penna.

Carey scheme sounds, it is a threat and one can expect the Senator to make his big noise around the time of our March re-opener since he is as much a tool of General Electric as his temporarily silent partner, James Carey. But his chance of success is about the same as ex-Congressman Kirsten who tried to bust our union during negotiations and who, when he was defeated by Schenectady workers and his Wisconsin constituents, went on the GE payroll as a lobbyist.

We don't wish the Senator any better fate!

### NO WAGE FIGHT . . . NO CONTRACT

CIO Textile Union members, who have long endured one of the lowest wage rates in American industry, got it in the neck again this month.

The union's president, Emil Rieve, who has in the past been editorially praised by the Wall St. Journal as a "Labor Statesman" for foregoing wage increases, announced that the union was prepared to renew its contract covering 70,000 woolen workers "as is."

But the pace setter in the woolen industry, American Woolen, after getting such deals previously, decided this year that such weakness on the part of the union leaders should be used to the hilt.

The company informed Rieve, who is a CIO vice-president and as a member of the Wage Stabilization Board voted to set up the national wage freeze, that it will cancel the contract as of March 15!

Textile workers are learning from bitter experience that the price of having a so-called "Labor Statesman" as head of their union is dwindling pay checks, mass layoffs and miserable working conditions.

## SET FOR NEW SELL-OUT

If the Steelworkers—as indicated—get the 18½ cents, then they will have received a total of 34½ cents an hour in a year—or about a 21.8 per cent increase.

The cost of living rose 2.43 cents in October and November, so if that factor were added, our raise would be about 20 per cent, close to what the Steelworkers have asked.

IUE-CIO national newspaper plays down wage demands in preparation for March sell-out.

UE and similar organizations are trying to give the impression that since the Steelworkers are asking for a general increase of 15 cents an hour (plus 3½ cents for inequities and other benefits), then the UE as a result should get 15 cents from GE and Westinghouse.

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**IUE-CIO News**