

issues

## AN INVITATION AND A PLEDGE

Every Schenectady GE worker must be aware by now that certain events of recent days are going to have a vital effect on those of us who work for GE and on the welfare of our families.

Because the IUE-CIO had the foresight and wisdom to write a cost-of-living clause into its GE contract, 65,000 GE workers in plants throughout America are now eligible to receive an eight to 10-cent per hour cost of living wage increase, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures for March 15, 1951.

This victory was won, despite organized efforts on the part of big business to make cost of living adjustment illegal under the current wage freeze.

Big business, led by GE, wanted to enforce a ten per cent formula, with no exceptions. But the American labor movement, the CIO, AFL and major independent unions, through the United Labor Policy Committee waged a successful battle and forced the Wage Stabilization Board to issue an order allowing cost of living increases above the 10 per cent formula.

But GE workers in Schenectady are not among the 65,000 who will receive the cost of living increase. The UE at its convention last September, went on record condemning such cost of living increases. The most we in Schenectady can hope to receive under the UE-GE agreement is five cents per hour, as allowed under the 10 per cent formula.

And the reason is plain. UE stands alone, unwanted by the rest of organized labor. While all other unions were doing a real trade union job, UE was, and still is, spending money in the defense of Julius Empspak, James Matles, and the other UE staff members who are being tried because they refused to answer the question, "Are you a Communist?"

This is the reason our families will suffer - - - and it's the reason why UE does stand alone today. All the rest of organized labor shuns UE. When UE made application for membership on the United Labor Policy Committee, all the CIO, AFL and independent unions voted "No."

**BUT WE, THE WORKERS AT GE, CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SITUATION! IUE-CIO, AT ITS GE CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING MARCH 3 AND 4, MADE A PLEDGE TO ALL GE WORKERS AND ISSUED AN INVITATION AS WELL.**

"It is our intention in IUE-CIO to fight to see that all GE workers enjoy the same benefits as will be obtained by workers led by IUE-CIO." This is the time for all GE workers to realize that as a force in the GE chain, UE is finished. It stands isolated, helpless, discredited, while the main stream of organized labor makes the fight for American labor and American democracy. Those workers chained to UE now have an opportunity to make their bid for freedom and alliance with IUE-CIO."

**OUR BROTHER AND SISTER GE WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE NATION HAVE ISSUED THIS INVITATION TO US - - - AND IT CONSTITUTES A CHALLENGE TO EVERY RIGHT THINKING MEMBER AND OFFICER OF LOCAL 301, AND TO EVERYONE WHO WORKS AT THE GE SCHENECTADY PLANT.**

We have the opportunity to rebuild Local 301 within the framework of CIO, to join the vast majority of GE workers throughout the country in the fight for economic justice. We have this opportunity to unite the now divided house of GE workers - - - to take our rightful place in the ranks of American labor under the banner of CIO.

We can do this by signing IUE-CIO applications for membership cards today, so that IUE-CIO will be able to petition the National Labor Relations Board for an election.

All of us must resolve now to stand firm in our beliefs, for we can remember the vicious lies UE spread last year when we were told UE would win the majority of GE workers. The record has proved this a lie.

Now UE has already begun its lying campaign, claimed that AFL and CIO leaders signed the wage freeze order. This statement appears in a recent UE District Three publication, but the record shows UE lied, because it is a matter of history that labor representatives walked out of the meeting without signing the vicious 10 per cent order.

**THROUGHOUT THE STRUGGLE WHICH IS BOUND TO ENSUE, WE MUST KEEP UPERMOST IN OUR MINDS THAT OUR FIRST PURPOSE IN HAVING A UNION IS TO WIN BETTER WAGES, HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF WORK - - - NOT TO SPEND A FORTUNE IN THE DEFENSE OF THOSE WHO ARE ENEMIES TO OUR NATION!**

Issued by:

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# IUE-CIO NEWS

"IN UNION  
THERE IS  
STRENGTH"

Volume I No. 1

March 22, 1951

## UNITY IN CIO MEANS HIGHER WAGES

When IUE-CIO was chartered in November, 1949, the average wage in the GE chain was \$1.44 per hour.

Today, through the efforts of IUE-CIO that average stands at \$1.63 per hour. The cost of living increase guaranteed to all GE workers under IUE-CIO contract will bring the hourly average up another eight to 10 cents.

Thus, after three years of nothing but promises under UE, GE workers are finally beginning to make gains. Some 65,000 GE workers are under IUE contracts, while UE still holds bargaining rights for 35,000.

Until there is unity among all GE workers in CIO, the GE workers can never hope to reach the average wages established by CIO in comparable industries.

Bureau of Labor Statistics figures show that the average wage of the CIO Steelworkers is \$1.86 per hour, and of the Auto Workers, \$1.81 per hour.

Workers in the steel and auto industries made these gains through unity in CIO.

Workers in the electrical industry suffered because UE failed to work with the rest of labor, but through IUE-CIO, this condition is changing.

### WELDERS RECOGNIZED AS "SKILLED" AT AEC, OTHER PLANTS UNDER IUE

Welders in IUE-CIO plants throughout the country have received skilled trade recognition during the past year.

In GE plants, IUE-CIO has been successful in winning the 5½-cent skilled trade increase for welders. Welders at the AEC plant here received this increase in October, 1950.

IUE-CIO's Skilled Trades Council, which takes up the problems of skilled workmen, holds that all welders must be recognized as skilled, since their training period is at least two years according to government standards, and their knowledge must be greater than that required on most jobs.

### IUE-CIO COST OF LIVING INCREASE RETROACTIVE TO MARCH 15

The cost of living increase due to GE workers under IUE-CIO contract will be retroactive to March 15, although the Bureau of Labor Statistics figures on the increase will not be ready until the middle of April.

IUE-CIO has pledged itself to try to win this increase for all GE workers, but it is doubtful that the increase for those not under IUE contract will be retroactive.

Management has claimed that it will attempt to receive permission from the government to grant the cost of living increase universally, since IUE-CIO was victorious in its fight to win such increases for its members.

Previous to that, GE fought against cost of living increase in every way possible, including using Charles E. Wilson, head of mobilization as their tool.

### MESSAGE FROM LYNN

Lynn Local 201, IUE-CIO, wishes to report to Schenectady GE workers that of the 44 whose names appeared on the leaflet which UE reproduced in its newspaper last Friday, 37 were active UE campaigners who have not as yet joined IUE-CIO in Lynn.

Lynn Local 201 condemns the UE for hiding their evil ways by putting out a UE handbill and claiming it is published by IUE-CIO members. The few IUE members who signed the leaflet now regret their action, and have stated publicly that they were tricked into signing it.

Lynn Local 201, despite continual harassment from UE and Communist organizers, is a strong local union with almost 12,000 members, and is growing stronger every day.

IUE-CIO  
WISHES EVERY  
GE WORKER  
A  
HAPPY EASTER

### IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 WINS RAISE FOR 12

Atomic Local 301's most recent victory brought wage increases to 12 men, bringing all those in the Spru Department at the Knolls up to the top of their classification.

Increases ranged from one to three steps, and were retroactive to February 26.

The local is engaged now in an effort to win a general increase for all AEC workers, above the cost of living increase, because of the nature of the work in which they are engaged.

### WE APPRECIATE THE COMPLIMENT

IUE-CIO wishes to go on record as gratefully accepting the compliment paid to this union on page one of Friday's Electrical Union News.

First UE claims the IUE-CIO contract with GE contains "sell-out" provisions. And UE uses an example. The strange part is that the example UE uses regards piece work prices, and the section in both the IUE-CIO and the UE contracts are so similar that it is difficult to find any difference, except, perhaps, in the wording.

Now even the UE must admit that the English language provides many means of expressing the same idea in different words.

But there is a slight difference in the two clauses. In the UE contract, the company is allowed to re-time the whole job if a change in manufacturing is introduced.

In the IUE-CIO contract, only that part of the job affected by the change may be re-timed. This provision protects the worker's job rate, in the event that management would attempt to lower it.

In both contracts the worker is guaranteed that his former earnings will be maintained.

IUE-CIO considers it a compliment that UE could find no clause in the IUE-CIO contract with GE to substantiate its lie about "sell-outs".