



IUE-CIO NEWS

"IN UNION
THERE IS
STRENGTH"

Volume 1 No. 8

Published by IUE-CIO



202 Clinton Street

May 17, 1951

UE-GE CONFERENCE BOARD VOTES TO ACCEPT NINE CENTS AT ERIE MEETING

JULIUS EMSPAK, OUT OF JAIL, CONDEMNS U. S. DEFENSE PROGRAM AND MARSHALL PLAN

Some 100 delegates, about 30 of them from Schenectady, voted on a resolution to accept the nine cents an hour increase won by IUE-CIO at the UE-GE Conference Board meeting at Erie, Pa., Sunday, May 13.

The result of that vote, which was very close, was to accept the nine cents.

The Schenectady delegation, by voting to accept the nine cents, carried the conference in favor of it.

Before the recess for lunch, delegates spoke mainly in opposition to the nine cents, and seemed to be in favor of a strike.

But a secret meeting held during this time apparently laid the strategy for the meeting. Immediately following the luncheon recess, speakers began to express opinions favoring the nine cents.

John Green of Schenectady said the people in Schenectady wanted the nine cents. Schenectady workers never voted on this issue, but Green didn't mention that.

Sidney Friedlander of Schenectady spoke first against the nine cents and then in favor of it.

Leo Jandreau, business agent of UE Local 301, said that rejecting the nine cents would mean losing Schenectady. He said we can't afford to lose our membership just to win a few extra cents.

James Matles, director of organization, told delegates early in the day that UE leaders wanted to be able to go into GE management and give notice of a strike. But after the secret meeting at lunch, Matles said it was more important to keep the union alive than to win an increase.

Albert J. Fitzgerald, UE president, spoke for just a few minutes, and spent that time blasting IUE-CIO, as did Joseph Dermody.

But the surprise of the day came from Julius Emspak, who was making one of his first public appearances since he was convicted on contempt charges and jailed.

Emspak, UE secretary treasurer, had nothing to say about the important issue of negotiations.

FOR AT LEAST A HALF HOUR EMSPAK BLASTED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. HE CONDEMNED THE MARSHALL PLAN, THE MEANS BY WHICH AMERICA GIVES AID TO THE STARVING PEOPLE OF EUROPE, AND THE MEANS BY WHICH AMERICA IS KEEPING COMMUNISM OUT OF EUROPE.

EMSPAK CONDEMNED THE U. S. DEFENSE PROGRAM IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF A GOOD COMMUNIST. HE CHARGED THE MONEY FOR DEFENSE WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO POLITICIANS IN WASHINGTON, BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATS. HE SAID SPENDING 72 MILLION DOLLARS FOR DEFENSE WAS STUPID, AND THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD REBEL.

Those were the words of guidance uttered by the great Julius Emspak to the UE-GE Conference Board. Just how long will the members of UE stand for this type of leadership?