

GE Opposes Giving Other Crafts Same Raise WLB Granted Electricians and Steamfitters Just Another Example Of 'Freedom of Press'

Negotiations for wage and other improvements for the building trades craftsmen opened Friday in Building 41, with the company opposing even the 10-cent raise already won for the electricians and steamfitters through War Labor Board action.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, principal company spokesman, made no attempt to deny that building tradesmen were paid less than men with the same qualifications in the construction industry, by margins running as high as 49 cents an hour. He said GE made it a practice to keep its wage rates generally as high as industry rates in the area, but that it did not include the construction industry in its comparisons.

One building trades committeeman after another pointed out to Stevens that the GE men frequently worked alongside outside men whom they had to help because of their own greater familiarity with GE conditions, and that the GE tradesmen resented being paid substantially less than these outside men.

Stevens Admits Inequity

Stevens admitted there was an inequity there, but said the company's first consideration in the matter was to maintain the relationship of wages within the plant. He said the relationship within the building trades had been disturbed by the raises won by the electricians and steamfitters, but that to equalize the building trades would lead to demands for raises for other hourly workers.

The committeemen emphasized the injustice of their rates in comparison with outside construction workers. Stevens said the company's comparisons of rates covered manufacturing industry in a wide central New York state area, but not the local construction industry. He admitted that when rates were set up for the Fort Edward plant, the company considered only strictly local area rates.

Rates for Helpers

The negotiating committee also pressed for a single job rate of \$1.10½ for all building trades helpers, and for a system of apprenticeship, with set standards, under which the helpers would have the opportunity to become full-fledged journeymen in a definite period of time. Stevens argued in favor of different helper rates. He said that the company was primarily interested in "doing the job" rather than training people, and that the company had given up the building trades apprentice course

Registration Director



ERNEST HERMAN

Ernest Herman, Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, left the shop for two weeks to work full-time as director of the PAC registration campaign in Schenectady County. He is chairman of the PAC Advisory Committee in the county. Under his direction, members of Local 301 and other Schenectady CIO unions turned out in squads working under ward captains to round up voters on the registration days. Fay Marvin, UE, was assigned as Brother Herman's assistant.

as it once had. On both helper rates and apprenticeships, however, Stevens said the committee had raised new points, and he wanted to study the matters further before taking a definite position.

Next Session Tomorrow

Other points in the bargaining program will be taken up at the next meeting in 41 tomorrow (Friday). A general meeting of building trades members will be called shortly to consider the company's position.

Present for the union in the negotia-

tions were Charles Ferris, William Templeton, David Rollo, and George Diemer, electricians; Keith Rockwell and Henry Ausfeld, steamfitters; Albert Spears, masons and roofers; John Keeler and Philip F. Bubb, ironworkers; Charles Nitsche, tinsmiths; Fabien Gee, painters; E. L. Hill, carpenters; Charles Danes, millwrights and riggers; and Ernest Johnson, crane repairmen. They were assisted by President Andrew Peterson, and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent.

The Schenectady Union-Star revealed again last week that it regards freedom of the press as freedom to suppress union statements in the interest of Big Business. The Union-Star refused last Friday to print a word about the GE stopping the Local 301 distribution of a CIO-PAC non-partisan leaflet urging workers to register.

James Doran, managing editor, told President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 that "it isn't news," and that the company had a perfect right to stop the distribution.

So Friday's Union-Star not only ignored the Peterson statement which was given to the paper, but didn't even mention the GE police crack-down.

Local 301 put a paid advertisement in the Schenectady Gazette Saturday as the only sure way of bringing the union's story to the public through the commercial press.

The Gazette also ran a short news item mentioning the GE action, but suppressing President Peterson's charge that the GE was brazenly attempting to keep down the vote of its employees. Although the Gazette had a copy of the leaflet, it did not run the fact that the leaflet was non-partisan and carried the name of no candidate nor political party.

The Union-Star trailed along Saturday afternoon with a day-late news story which was just a rewrite of the Gazette piece. Again, the Peterson charge was suppressed and the content of the leaflet was not described.

Both papers always have unlimited space for long Republican tirades against the PAC.

Tune In

Remember, Local 301 goes on the air every Monday at 7:15 p.m. over Station WENY. Don't miss your union program.

Robert Northrup, Local 2054, USA has been named chairman of Ward 1; Tony Navaretta of Local 301, Ward 2; Joseph Rotunda and Fred Pacelli; both 301, co-chairmen of Wards 3 and 4; Horace Perryman, 301, Ward 5; Gordon Belgrave, 301, Ward 7; Allen Townsend, 301, Ward 9; Alfred Pel-

Electrical Union News

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

VOL. III—No. 28

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

October 24, 1946

CIO-PAC Launches Active Campaign

The Schenectady County CIO-PAC opened its campaign activities with a meeting Tuesday night in the Ward 2 PAC clubrooms at which local Democratic and ALP candidates endorsed by the Schenectady CIO unions were speakers.

Ernest Herman, county PAC chairman, said this is the first of a series of meetings in an intense campaign planned by the union members to elect the slate of candidates headed by James M. Mead, for governor, and Herbert H. Lehman for U. S. Senator. The campaign will be carried on in every ward, village and town.

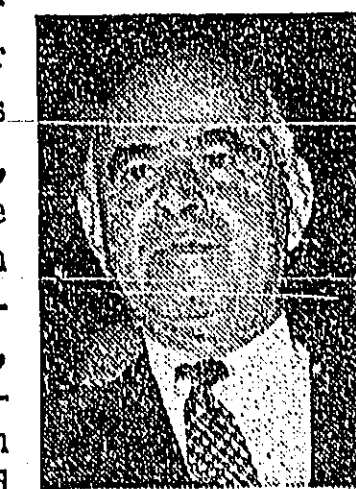
Joseph Dominelli and Joseph Krawiecki, both of Local 301 have been appointed section leaders and a third will be named this week by the PAC Executive Board. Brother Dominelli has charge of Wards 2, 3, 4, 9, and the town of Rotterdam and Brother Krawiecki of Wards 1, 5, 6, 10, 11 and Niskayuna. Chairmen have been appointed for two towns and 10 city wards. The others will be named this week.

Robert Northrup, Local 2054, USA has been named chairman of Ward 1; Tony Navaretta of Local 301, Ward 2; Joseph Rotunda and Fred Pacelli; both 301, co-chairmen of Wards 3 and 4; Horace Perryman, 301, Ward 5; Gordon Belgrave, 301, Ward 7; Allen Townsend, 301, Ward 9; Alfred Pel-

(Continued on Page 4)



James M. Mead



Herbert H. Lehman

Union Attacks Company Plan to Shut Down Plant for Half-Day on Election Day, No Pay

Charging that the GE plan to shut-down the plant for a half-day on Election Day is an evasion of the Election Law and a violation of the union agreement, the Local 301 Executive Board will press vigorously the union's demand that GE comply with the law and the contract by working its employees six hours with eight hours pay Nov. 5.

Leo Jandreau wrote J. M. Howell, GE works manager, in behalf of the Board last week to point out that under the Election Law employees are allowed two hours to vote during working hours without loss of wages.

The Board proposed that the company put into effect a six hour day with eight hour pay Nov. 5 by permitting the regular day shift to leave their jobs two hours before the regular quitting time and permitting the second shift to report for work two hours later than the usual starting time.

The company replied that it had already made arrangements, announced in Works News, to operate the plant for a half-day, with no pay for time lost.

Second Letter to GE

Brother Jandreau Tuesday wrote a second letter to Howell, as follows:

"We again call upon you to live up to the intent of the law and our collective bargaining agreement, and establish for Election Day a six-hour day with eight hours' pay.

"The New York State Election Law provides clearly that employees shall be entitled to two hours off to vote, with full pay. The intent is clear, to give

the workers a chance to vote without loss of wages.

"Our collective bargaining agreement provides for a regular 40-hour work week to the extent possible, with safeguards against dropping below 40 hours without adequate cause.

"Application of the law as we propose makes it possible for all employees to take the two hours' voting time while working a 40-hour week, and while insuring orderly operation of the plant.

GE Decision Unfair

"Your decision to close the plant for four hours, which you arrived at without consulting the union, and in advance of receiving our proposal, has the effect of evading the purpose of both the law and our agreement. We think it violates the letter of the agreement. The fact that the practice existed before the war is no excuse. Closing the plant for four hours imposes a severe penalty upon your employees for exercising their citizen's duty to vote November 5.

"We urge you to comply with the law and the contract by adopting our proposal for a six-hour day with eight hours' pay."

"We urge you to comply with the law and the contract by adopting our proposal for a six-hour day with eight hours' pay."

Davis Reports to Council On Anti-Lynching Crusade

Albert Davis, Local 301, reported at the October meeting of the Capital District Industrial Union Council on the American Crusade to End Lynching, a recent "march on Washington" in which he represented the Council.

He described the reception of delegates at the White House and the Department of Justice as unsatisfactory.

"Everyone left with the determination not to rest until lynching and racial discrimination are a thing of the past in this country of ours," he said.

Local 301 Tackles GE On Bldg. 16 Conditions

After the company refused a shop meeting on a variety of accumulated grievances about working conditions in Bldg. 16, William Kelly, assistant to the business agent, filed five cases with GE management and is preparing others as rapidly as full details are provided by the workers.

Committeemen A. W. Eastman, Edward H. Koch, Jr., Edward Bennett, (Continued on Page 4)

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA, C. I. O.
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee

Dewey Brashear Ray Flanigan
Milo Lathrop William Mastriani
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. - Schenectady, N. Y.

SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

Organizing Office Workers To Be No. 1 Job for Union

The Executive Board of Local 301 has declared organizing the office workers of the Schenectady GE plant into the UE the No. 1 job of 301 after Nov. 5.

Board members voted approval last week of a plan submitted by the Office Workers Organizing Committee calling for active help from the 301 membership. It was presented by Jerry Steinberg, UE organizer, after he and a committee consulted with President Andrew Peterson and Leo Jandreau, business agent.

301 Membership Drive Progresses Steadily

With membership application cards coming in daily, Local 301's campaign to sign up all remaining non-members is moving forward steadily.

About half the non-members reported in Bldgs. 52, 64 and 66, the first section in the drive, have now signed cards. A check-up of cards and lists in the union office showed that 12 of the committeemen in these buildings now have 100 per cent union groups, either because they signed up all listed remaining non-members or because all employees were already members.

These committeemen are H. Bayless, Thomas Cuomo, D. E. Knowlton, Alexander Mathieson, and Charles Nitsche, Bldg. 52; Vernon J. Millington and Joseph Pitts, Bldg. 64, and John Caruthers, John Saccocio, Harvey Quinto, J. L. Ohlidal and Albert Schneider, Bldg. 66.

In the second section, Bldgs. 53, 65 and 69, cards also are coming in. Lists of non-members have been practically completed and cards have been issued for all members enrolled so far. Any member in these buildings who has not yet received his union card should ask his committeeman for it.

In the third section, Bldgs. 49 and 60, and the fourth, Bldgs. 68, 70-J, 72, 76, 80, 84, 227, 238 and 241, the lists are being made up.

CIO-PAC Represented At Hearing on Budget

Speaking for the Schenectady County CIO-PAC, Ernest Herman, Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, told the City Council at its budget hearing Monday that "the big corporations like the General Electric Co. are not bearing their fair share of the tax burden of this city."

"Taxes should be levied on the basis of ability to pay and not on the ability to pay high priced lawyers to avoid payment of a fair share of a community's tax," he declared.

He also pointed out that with the increasing surplus in the state treasury local communities should receive more moneys from the state.

Budget appropriations which he asked were:

• Earnmarked sum for teachers salaries to guard against any wage cut.

• \$48,000 for Child Care Centers for another year.

• Money for a new swimming pool.

• Adequate provision for maintenance and development of the present school buildings and facilities.

• Appropriation to increase wages of firemen, policemen and all city employees, except top brackets.

Brother Herman told the Council the present garbage collection system "is a mess," especially in winters.

Labor Candidate To Speak Tonight

Charles B. Hildreth of Gloversville, former Local 301 member who is running for state Senate in the 40th district (Fulton-Hamilton-Herkimer and Lewis counties), will be a speaker on the radio program of the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, at 7 p.m. tonight (Thursday) over WTRY. He worked in Bldg. 66 in 1941-42.

Running unopposed in the ALP primary, Brother Hildreth also won the Democratic nomination, thanks to a write-in-vote. He is opposing Senator Fred Young, Republican, author of many bills to weaken unemployment insurance. Brother Hildreth is secretary of Local 303, International Fur and Leather Workers Union, CIO, and chairman of the United Labor Union of Fulton County.

Found — Birth Certificate

A birth certificate issued to Ursula Jean Minkler was found last week on the steps of 301 Hall. It is being held at the union office.

301 War Veterans In March on Albany

A delegation of Local 301 World War II veterans took part in "operation Albany" of the American Veterans Committee and CIO unions Saturday.

Heading the local group were Joseph Dominelli, chairman of the 301 veterans committee; Dewey Brashear, secretary, and Rudy Ellis, who also represented the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, along with its secretary treasurer, Robert Northrup, of Local 2054 United Steelworkers of America.

The Schenectady veterans missed out on the overnight occupation of the Senate Chamber, but took part in meetings and demonstrations backing the AVC demand that Governor Dewey spend money on housing instead of luxury highways and call a special session of the Legislature on the housing crisis.

Dewey was "too ill" to see the veterans Saturday afternoon, but addressed a political rally in Troy that night. Sunday noon he finally saw the 73 veterans who had stayed overnight in the Senate. He permitted no food to be taken to them during their almost 23-hour stay in the Senate.

Union-Star Publishes New Lie About Labor

One of the most brazen of the numerous anti-labor lies peddled by the press appeared in the Union-Star last Thursday, in the third of a series of vicious anti-labor propaganda articles written by NEA, the newspaper feature service owned by Scripps-Howard, chain newspaper empire.

The article stated the UE strikers against Westinghouse last winter "won half a cent an hour more than the company had been willing to pay." The piece continued:

"The raise, on its face, was 18 cents an hour. But the company had agreed to 17½ cents of this before the strike began."

The fact is that the company did not offer one penny before the strike, and refused to make any offer for weeks after the strike was under way.

This unusually crude lie is only the tip-off to the whole campaign of untruths peddled by the Big Business press in its efforts to mislead the people and the members of the unions themselves, the same kind of lie that helped kill price control.

Peterson Answers Attack Against Labor Made by Dr. Jeffries, Indicted GE Official

Andrew Peterson, Local 301 president, made mincemeat of an anti-labor speech of Dr. Zay Jeffries, GE vice-president, in the union radio broadcast Monday.

The Jeffries speech, to which the Schenectady Gazette devoted two-thirds of a column that morning, spoke of union leaders as "irresponsible" and having "un-American objectives" and called for changes in the Wagner Act. He blamed "high wages" for the economic troubles of the country today and denounced government controls.

"Who is this remarkable Dr. Jeffries whose fear of union wages is matched only by his fear that certain labor leaders have un-American objectives?" Brother Peterson asked.

"What is American or un-American according to his standards?"

Jeffries Under Indictment

Peterson pointed out that Dr. Jeffries is one of the three individual defendants indicted by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of New York as fellow conspirators with General Electric, International GE, the Carboly Co., wholly owned GE subsidiary, and the Nazi firm of Friedrich Krupp, Aktiengesellschaft, in a conspiracy existing at least until Aug, 1940, to restrain trade and fix prices on hard metal compositions.

Dr. Jeffries was named as chairman of the board of Carboly. The cartel agreement between GE, Carboly and Krupp in 1928 caused the price of carboly to rise from \$50 to \$458 a pound, according to the indictment.

"Evidently Dr. Jeffries considers that government action against this sort of stuff is a scandalous interference with free enterprise," President Peterson said.

A U. S. Senate Committee found that the manipulation and shortage of carboly, or tungsten carbide, interfered seriously with America's war effort, because it held up the production of machine tools, Brother Peterson pointed out.

Nazi Technique

"Perhaps it is from GE's friendly relations with the Nazi armament kings that Dr. Jeffries learned the method revealed in his remarkable Lehigh address," the 301 president said. "For we have here nothing but the notorious Hitler technique of 'The Big Lie'. It was the unlamented Adolf who declared that of you make a lie big enough, fantastic enough, people will be so dazed that they will believe it."

"Here we have Dr. Jeffries, indicted as a cartelist, screaming 'Thief' at the

It's the Paper Shortage

Faced with the choice of canary color paper or no paper, the editorial board of EU News decided the union paper must appear, no matter what shade it is.

At any rate, the pictures print more clearly on this yellow paper than on the kind used for the last few months. We're hoping it won't be long now before the paper shortage ends.

labor unions of their employees struggling to push wages somewhere close to run-away prices, and at the feeble government controls through which people are trying to place a slight roadblock in the wild inflationary profit spree of Big Business.

GE Profits Huge

"The fact is, of course, that over a period of years, according to its own figures, General Electric has averaged thirteen percent after taxes on total investment, a rate of profit that is in itself a danger to the economy. During the war it was more. And now we find that all business profits are reaching new records. What does Dr. Jeffries want? Instead of being taxed too much, as Dr. Jeffries wails, the big corporations have been getting tax refunds from the nation, to help them fight their workers.

"The raises won by the CIO last winter were merely to make up in part for the rise which already had taken place in the cost of living. It has been proved that they could have paid easily without price rises. The price rises were not caused in any way by the wage increases. They were caused simply by the insatiable greed of GE and their kind for profits, their ability to push prices up through monopoly controls, and their ability to bludgeon OPA to death, through the unholy combination of Hoover-Dewey Republicans and Southern poll-tax Democrats"

It Takes a Long Time To Teach GE Foremen

Cases are still being reported each week to the union office of GE foremen, especially those in Industrial Control, Bldgs. 53 and 69, refusing to give yellow vouchers, as required under the contract, to committeemen entitled to be paid by the company for time spent taking up grievances.

The contract provides that time lost by committeemen in direct contact with foremen over grievances is paid by the GE as follows: up to 1½ hours a week to a committeeman on a 40 hour week and up to two hours on a 48 hour week.

Each complaint has been taken up with Bldg. 41 and the union has insisted that company officials order foremen to correct their mistakes or deliberate ignoring of the contract, in each instance.

Committeemen who are refused vouchers should notify Adam Boss at the union office immediately. Sometimes there are delays of a week or more in reporting. The longer the wait, the harder it is to prove violations.

President Andrew Peterson, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani and Brother Boss have told GE officials the company has done a bad job of informing foremen about the contents of the contract.

Third Membership Affair On Calendar for Tonight

Union members in Bldgs. 49, 53, 60, 65, 69, Smith St. and the Troy Warehouse are invited to the membership night program at 7:30 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at 301 Hall.

This is the third in a series of eight get-togethers planned to cover all buildings. All the programs start at 7:30 p.m. except the one next Sunday at 2:30 p.m. for all second shift members. Refreshments served.

The remaining schedule is:

Tomorrow (Friday)—Bldgs. 57, 68, 70J, 72, 76, 80, 84, 87, 91, 95, 98A B C D, 99A B, 101, 105, 107, 227, 238, 241.

Sunday, Oct. 27 — All second shift members.

Monday, Oct. 28—Bldgs. 29, (64 Front End), 67, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 85, 89, 93, 97, 109, 234, CAP.

Tuesday, Oct. 29—Bldgs. 13, 13F, 59, 61, 63, 259, 265, 269, 273, 285, (53 Patrol).

Wednesday, Oct. 30—Bldgs. 42, 46, 48, 50, 52, 64, 66.