

GE Refuses to Raise Low Piece Work Rates; Committee to Discuss Next Step This Week

The special committee of representatives of workers on low-rated piece work jobs will meet this week at the union hall to consider the company's attitude in refusing to raise the AER's of these jobs.

While making minor concessions on piece work day rates, A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, said the company did not recognize the production-workers-hourly-rate minimum as applying to piece workers. He admitted that the plant minimum for experienced hourly production workers was 89 1/2 cents, but said the piece workers' jobs were different.

The union committee charged that the AER's of 89 1/2 cents and 95 1/2 cents discriminated against the women on these jobs by failing to apply the 15 percent incentive factor in favor of these piece workers. Stevens claimed the lower-rated piece work jobs did not bear the same relation to hourly-paid jobs as in the more skilled brackets.

It is the union's contention that the company has in fact recognized an hourly job rate of 89 1/2 cents for the lowest-skilled production job. Stevens said that for an AER of 89 1/2 cents, the company considered there was a "theoretical" hourly rate of 80 1/2 cents, but would actually maintain this on waiting time only, and would pay 86 1/2 and 89 1/2 cents as piece work day work. He also said the company was "considering" raising the piece work hiring-in rate from 75 cents to 77 1/2 cents for the lowest-rated jobs, which would mean a "breaking-in" rate of 87 1/2 cents instead of the present 85 cents for persons transferred for lack of work.

Stevens said that when a committee-man showed that the breaking-in period was inadequate for a certain job, it would be lengthened.

The union was represented by Anthony Esposito, Grace Friello, Virginia Murphy, Lucy Zeppetelli, Betty Roberts, Lucy Swatling, and Albert Raymond, Bldg. 53; Stanley Bishop, Martin Stanton, and Peter Miller, of 69; Helen Quirini, of 81; Lucy De Carlo, Constance Wrex, and Stella Stankovich, of 89; and Leland F. Sisto and Frances Manna, of 269. They were assisted by President Andrew Peterson and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent. Four members of the committee were unable to attend.

National CIO Radio Program

The national CIO is back on the air with a series of broadcasts from 1 to 1:30 p.m. every Sunday over the NBC network.

Future programs now being planned will include roundtable discussions of housing, wages and prices.

Trustees for 1947



Edward Tanski



Albert Davis



James Kelly

Brothers Davis and Kelly were reelected trustees of Local 301 and Brother Tanski will be installed for the first time in January.

Union Wins Raises For 7 Steelworkers

Raises of five cents each were won for seven men through a recent grievance action, bringing them to the Class A Steelworker job rate of \$1.385. They were represented by Committeemen John Keeler and Philip F. Eubb, assisted by Board Member A. J. Spens.

The men had been classed for months as A steelworkers, but were paid five cents an hour less because they were assigned chiefly to welding work. The union insisted on their right to be paid for their classification.

Similar grievance cases are being pressed by the union for nine other men.

GE's undistributed profits are up from \$169,000,000 in 1939 to \$258,000,000 today — but company advertisements and Works News statements complain of low profits.

Government reports say workers' real wages are dropping, but GE says workers' wages are up higher than the cost of living.

What's the explanation of all these contradictory statements?

It lies in the remarkable way GE propaganda uses figures in its drive to mislead the workers and the rest of the public in the current discussion of wages and living costs.

That was a very pretty chart the Works News ran, and many readers probably got the impression that GE was actually losing money. The GE's statement as to profits for a short period depends on all kinds of factors that are hard to check, such as inventory figures, construction figures, the hold-back by the company during the fight on OPA, tax refunds under the carry-back law, etc. But even the company's own claim is that it is making 5 percent as much profit as in 1940, and in 1940 the company made better than 16.5 percent on total investment. Even half of that is a very handsome return, by any business man's standards.

Take the company's other claims— Says GE — average wages have gone up 55 percent since 1940. The fact is that total wages increases, including group adjustments such as those for the toolmakers, average 38 cents. That is a whole lot less than 55 percent.

Says GE — cost of living has gone up only 45.7 percent. A visit to the store will tell any worker that is nonsense. The actual increase is well over 60 percent.

The GE statement that wages have gone up faster than the cost of living is the exact opposite of the truth.

Statisticians are paid to make figures show what their employers want. GE's profit figures are considered in relation to investment. And behind all the talk of wanting a "fair profit," is the fact that over the years GE manages to get a rate of profit, after all taxes, of more than 13 percent.

The prettiest fairy tale of all is the GE's "246,687 owners." Yes, it has that many stockholders. But GE is nicely controlled by the House of Morgan and its high-salaried representatives in the GE management.

Electrical Union News

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

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What a Job, and No Overtime Pay! Election Committee Works Long Hours



The Local 301 Election Committee at its all-night job of sorting and counting ballots at 301 Hall in the annual union election of general officers. They took a few minutes off now and then for coffee and sandwiches and to answer telephone calls from their wives. William Stewart headed the

committee which was elected at a 301 Membership meeting Nov. 17. The group represented the interests of all candidates on both slates and came from all parts of the plant. See Page 3 for the committee's unanimous statement on the orderly, democratic way in which the election was conducted.

Slight Progress Reported In Building Trades Case

Discussion of the building trades dispute at the national level made slight progress here last week, when J. W. Burnison, of the national management labor relations staff, refused to grant the 10-cent raise won for the electricians and steamfitters to the other trades, but improved the previous offer a little. He said the five-cent offer would be paid to B mechanics as well as those at the top, and that it would include the pipe coverers and machine tool fitters, previously excluded. He still refused to include the glaziers.

The union committee picked by the building trades representatives to meet with Burnison in Building 2 stood on the 10-cent demand, and also demanded a rate of \$1.14 1/2 for helpers when investigation showed that was the rate paid helpers in the Pittsfield and Lynn plants. Burnison said he wanted to look into that question. He flatly op-

(Continued on Page 2)

Children's Xmas Party At Union Hall Dec. 22

A Christmas party for children will be given at the Union hall, 301 Liberty St., from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. The party continues a union custom which was dropped temporarily during the war.

Miss Belle Baxter will have charge of the entertainment program. There will be gifts and refreshments for the young guests. The Activities Committee of which Lanson L. Cole is chairman has charge of the affair. Detailed plans for the party will be made at a meeting of the committee at 8 p.m. Monday night at the union hall.

301 On Air

Don't forget the weekly union radio program, the Local 301 broadcast every Monday at 7:15 p.m. over WSNY.

Executive Board Chosen for 1947

Voting conducted this month among Local 301 shop committeemen for Board members to serve during 1947 resulted in the election of five new Board members and the reelection of 11 now serving. The Board will also include seven recently elected general officers of the union.

James Cognetta defeated John Sacocio, present Board member, as Board representative of Bldgs. 52, 64 and 66. Brother Cognetta is a Bldg. 52 committeeman.

Alfred J. Pelrah, a Bldg. 64 committeeman for five years, won the Board seat now held by John Boyle, representing Bldgs. 64 front end, 67, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 234 and 29. Brother Pelrah is chairman of the Local 301 Price Control Committee.

George Judway, committeeman in Bldg. 18 for three years, carried the

(Continued on Page 2)

Executive Board Chosen for 1947

(Continued from Page 1)

election against John Myers, Board member, to represent Bldgs. 18, 18A, 40 and 40B. Brother Judway has served on the Local 301 Election Committee for the past two years.

Mary McCartin, committeewoman in Bldg. 28 and formerly committeewoman in Bldg. 89, was elected representative to the Board for women at large.

The fifth new Board member is Anthony Villano, who has been an acting Board member and shop chairman of Bldgs. 5 and 37. He will represent these buildings and the Campbell Ave. Plant.

Re-elected Board members are: Anthony Esposito, representing Bldgs. 53, 65 and 69, Dewey Brashear, Bldgs. 81 and 89; Leland Sisto, Bldgs. 59, 269, 273 and 285; Charles Ferris, Bldgs. 13, 13F, 61, 63, 259, 265, 53 Patrol, 11 Electric; A. S. Spears, Bldgs. 57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C, D; 99A, B, 101, 105, 107.

Also Henry Busse, Bldgs. 68, 70J, 72, 76, 80, 84, 227, 238, 241; Willard Kuschel, Bldgs. 42, 46, 48, 50; Michael Tedisco, Bldgs. 14, 15, 16, 17, 19; Albert Davis, Bldgs. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28; William Stewart, 49 and 60, and Eugene Le Moine, 85, 93, 97, 109.

No Immediate Relief Seen for GE Lay-Offs

Approximately 3500 GE workers were still laid-off at the Schenectady plant because of the ban on industrial gas when EU News went to press this week.

Reports from the New York Power and Light Corporation indicated that the utility may not declare the industrial gas emergency at an end for a week or 10 days.

The brown-out order on electricity has been lifted but the New York Power and Light has entire authority to say how long the industrial gas restrictions will be in effect, under an order of the Civil Production Administration.

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Why Not Appoint Him U.S. Secretary of Labor?

President Charles E. Wilson of General Electric is chairman of the new Civil Rights Committee appointed by President Truman to fight intolerance and recommend laws to strengthen civil liberties!

Perhaps his interest in civil rights is something he developed since last winter, when UE members were clubbed by Philadelphia police for peacefully parading in protest against an anti-strike injunction obtained by GE.

Slight Progress Reported In Building Trades Case

(Continued from Page 1)

posed any apprenticeship system for the helpers.

Union Suggests Arbitration
The union committee suggested arbitrating the whole dispute, to which Burnison said he would give a definite reply later, but that he thought the company would refuse, even though he realized that failure to settle the dispute might mean trouble. He also said the company would refuse to meet with a conciliator. He said he thought he could work out a solution to the question of regulating outside contracts.

The union committee in the negotiations included Albert Spears, Ernest Hill, Bennie Ford, Keith Rockwell, Charles Nitsche, Charles Danes, John Keeler, and Ernest Johnson, all committeemen, International Representatives Joseph Dermody and Joseph Turkowski, Leo Jandreau, business agent, and Victor Pasche, assistant.

The whole building trades committee was prepared to meet again as soon as there was a definite reply from the company on the arbitration issue.

The tinsmiths' group met Monday night and voted to withhold taking a stand pending a definite reply. They voted also to reject a proposed Class C for tinsmiths and demand that helpers doing some mechanics' work be given the starting rate for B tinsmiths and classed as such.

\$200 Donation

A donation of \$200 was voted by the Dec. 3 membership meeting of Local 301 to the CIO United Furniture Workers at Granville, who have won a six-week strike against the Telescope Folding Furniture Co.

New Committeemen Sworn Into Office

A total of 51 men and women recently took their oaths of office as shop committeemen of Local 301. Nine were sworn in at the committeemen's and membership meeting Dec. 3 and 42 at the Nov. 12 committeemen's meeting.

Those sworn last week were:
J. C. Richtmeyer Bldg. 73A
Mary Garcia Bldg. 53
Pauline Freeman Bldg. 285
John E. Epting Bldg. 84
Joseph T. O'Connor Bldg. 285
J. M. Hart Bldg. 71
John R. Mott Bldg. 28
Kenneth Hale Bldg. 46
John Terry Bldg. 109

The November group was:

W. Tyndall Bldg. 109
Matthew Shearer Bldg. 81
Wesley Alexander Bldg. 84
Joseph Mangino Bldg. 77
Theodore Griffith Bldg. 60
Fred Secovic Bldg. 60
F. Colomario Bldg. 60
Mrs. Jean LuBrant Bldg. 285
Joseph Whitbeck Bldg. 69
D. F. Devereaux Bldg. 60
L. C. Shannon Bldg. 285
Louis Hofer Bldg. 285
Lawrence Parker Bldg. 10
Martin S. Burgess Bldg. 52
Ralph D. Pipe Bldg. 52
Raymond DeWire Bldg. 66
Arthur Bertini Bldg. 68
A. J. Batkiewicz Bldg. 52
James Lucarello Bldg. 81
Ralph Pigeon Bldg. 60
E. H. Brennan Bldg. 60
Edward Drevs Bldg. 17
Helen Nichols Bldg. 269
Nancy Madonna Bldg. 68
Donald Siskind Bldg. 71
Alan H. Seward Bldg. 60
Audna M. Pitcher Bldg. 89
Anthony Pivacek Bldg. 57
William Przewiecki Bldg. 57
Carl F. Ossenfort Bldg. 101
George A. Pelletier Bldg. 10
Clifford J. Leger Bldg. 50
Roubine J. Leger Bldg. 16
Morton L. Milkins Bldg. 42
Joseph A. Hils Bldg. 89
S. Dinardo Bldg. 60
Leon Jeroszko Bldg. 81
Edwin G. Coon Bldg. 49
N. Capozucco Bldg. 85
Paul J. Landolfo Bldg. 285
John L. Glunz Bldg. 89
M. Picozzi Bldg. 78

On Activities Committee

Gordon Belgrade is a new member of the Local 301 Activities Committee.

Local 301 Election Orderly, Democratic, Committee Declares

The entire Election Committee signed the following statement to the membership of Local 301 after making the official report on election results.

"The Election Committee wishes to thank the members of Local 301 for their active participation in making the election a fine expression of union loyalty and interest.

"Despite the turmoil caused by sudden lay-offs, the 7,812 votes set an all-time record vote, exceeding by a wide margin the votes cast in wartime when the working force was double the present time. It is clear that the many problems faced by the union since the end of the war have brought increased interest in the union by the membership.

Orderly Election

"The election was orderly throughout. It set an example of living union democracy.

"The Election Committee consisted of active supporters of both slates of candidates, about equally divided between the two. This year, the Committeemen's meeting accepted all Election Committee members nominated by supporters of both sides. The Election Committee report was unanimous. Regardless of individual feelings as to the outcome, all members of the committee are happy over the conduct of the election and the big vote cast.

Full Committee Signs

"John Pasquella, Bldg. 285; Samuel Scott, Bldg. 285; Lawrence L. Gebo, Bldg. 89; Peter A. Sorenson, Bldg. 49; Martin S. Burgess, Bldg. 52; Fred Pacelli, Bldg. 101; Mary M. McCartin, Bldg. 28; Raymond F. Wagner, Bldg. 28; William G. Weber, Bldg. 5; G. D. Judway, Bldg. 18; W. A. Fisher, Bldg. 81; L. F. Sisto, Bldg. 269; John Kasitch, Bldg. 53; Frank Emspak, Bldg. 46; Ralph Pannone, Bldg. 269; J. J. Cognetta, Bldg. 52; John Green, Bldg. 66; Dewey Brashear, Bldg. 89; Jack Wouhila, Bldg. 28; Rudolph Ellis, Bldg. 46; Walter I. Plummer, Bldg. 60; Enoch Wassell, Bldg. 77; Anthony J. Esposito, Bldg. 53; William O. Young, Bldg. 273; William A. Stewart (Chairman), Bldg. 60; Fred W. Cameron, Bldg. 49; Audna M. Pitcher, Bldg. 89; Donald Palmer, Bldg. 17; Clifford J. Leger, Bldg. 50; William A. Downs, Bldg. 15; Stephen Lasak, Bldg. 28, and Joseph Rotunda, Bldg. 73."

1947 Assistant Secretary Has Active Union Record

Lillian Bliss, who was elected assistant recording secretary of Local 301 at the general election Dec. 2, has been a committeewoman for several years in Bldg. 68. During the strike last winter she had an outstanding record for picket duty and for her work on the Welfare Committee.

She aided in the Red Cross blood donor drive during the war and has taken part in many union and civic activities. Her job is running a glazing machine in the Porcelain Department and she is a member of the board of directors of the Porcelain Department Federal Credit Union.

Her picture was not received by EU News last week in time to be run with that of Helen Quirin, newly elected recording secretary. EU News next week will run the picture of William Hodges, vice-president-elect, which was not available in time for this week's issue.

GE Spreads Misinformation On Profits, Wages, Prices

The General Electric Co. continues to give out phony figures on prices, profits and wages to mislead the public into thinking the company can't afford to grant any new wage increase.

Last week's copy of EU News exposed the falseness of the wage-price propaganda in Works News. This week's national UE News gives facts and figures GE can't possibly laugh off.

But again this week GE took advertising space in Schenectady papers to publish its misinformation.

Local 301 has distributed to all its shop committeemen accurate and up-to-date information on GE profits and earnings. If workers haven't been shown this material by their committeemen they ought to ask to see it.

Meeting on Wage Policy

Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, will attend the General Executive Board meeting of UE next Tuesday and Wednesday at Pittsburgh. The union's wage policy will be the principal business.

Union Gathers Facts On Overtime at GE

The office of Local 301 is collecting information to see what groups of workers are entitled to overtime pay for time they have to spend inside the plant in addition to their regular 40 hour work week.

The United States Supreme Court recently ruled in the Mt. Clemens Pottery case that time spent by employees walking to work on the employer's property, after punching the timeclock, was working time.

According to UE attorneys, this decision opens the way for workers to collect overtime pay for time spent at a plant in preparing for work, collecting tools, changing clothes, receiving instructions before the start of a shift, and any time spent on the premises after regular shift hours for the convenience of the employer.

The information on practices at the Schenectady plant will be sent to the national UE office in answer to detailed questionnaires. The UE legal staff believes that thousands of workers in the electrical industry throughout the country have overtime pay due them and will take the necessary legal steps to collect it.

Union Challenges State On Call-In Pay Ruling

Local 301 plans to fight a State Unemployment Insurance ruling under which the two hours call-in pay provided under the UE-GE contract is recorded as a day worked.

In some cases this ruling deprives the laid-off worker of more unemployment insurance money than the amount of call-in pay collected.

The union claims that any day when an employee is called in and then laid-off without work must be listed as a day of unemployment. The fact that the contract guarantees the worker two hours compensation for being called in and sent home without work doesn't make a jobless day a work day.

Laid-off persons should make their claims for full unemployment insurance benefits regardless of call-in pay. The union will appeal through several test cases.

CIO Broadcast Tonight

"Prices, Profits and Wages" will be the subject of the Capital District CIO Council broadcast at 7 p.m. tonight (Dec. 12) over WTRY.