

301 Complains Of Bus Service

A committee from Local 301 met with officials of the Schenectady Railway Co. and of the Transport Workers Union recently to discuss unsatisfactory afternoon bus service at the GE gates.

Board Members Michael Tedisco, Mary McCartin and Eugene Le Moine were named by President Andrew Peterson to represent 301. Meeting with them were A. Frank Geiler, new president of the Railway Co., C. F. Spangenberg, its superintendent of transportation, and Lewis A. Benedict and Alton Petseys, both officers of TWU.

The company officials promised to try moving some buses from other lines to make more buses available for the shift ending at 3:30 p.m. They said the company hasn't enough buses now and suggested further staggering of GE shifts, by changing the present 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift to 6:30 to 3. The 301 committee took no stand on this question.

The 301 group pointed out that at the lower end of the works employees are often stranded because of lack of service on their particular bus lines. However, the Railway Co. still refuses to give transfers at State St. on the grounds it would slow up traffic.

Bus officials suggested that Local 301 ask authorities to stop all parking in lower State and in Erie in late afternoon, to help speed bus service.

The 301 members said that some cities have eased traffic problems by issuing lower prices passes for housewives in the morning and early afternoon. Such a system in Schenectady would encourage women to shop outside the workers' rush hours.

Membership Drive Is In Full Swing

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Every member of Local 301 can enroll members and is urged to take an active part in the drive.

The only applications that count in the campaign figures are those from people who are not on the union's active list and who are not shown as "picked up" by the company on returning to work at the plant.

The membership meeting voted that one dollar should be given to a member for each person he signs up till May 1, the end of the drive.

The first dues for the new members will not be deducted until May 1.

William Stewart is chairman of the Organizing Committee.

Meet The Editors



William Templeton is chairman of the new Editorial Committee of Local 301 and Miss Mary M. McCartin, Executive Board member for women-at-large, is secretary.



Decision of Governor Awaited on Legislation

Governor Dewey's decision was awaited, at the time EU News went to press, on various bills opposed by the State CIO. They included:

The Young-Demo bill which would weaken the Unemployment Insurance Fund by giving rebates of \$118,000,000 to employers.

The Wilson-Pakula bill preventing a member of one party from running in the primary of another party without consent of the second party's machine. Such a bill would have made it impossible for Congressman Marcontonio to be elected.

The Condon-Wadlin bill penalizing public workers for striking and interfering with their activities to obtain better pay or working conditions.

The tax bill permitting localities to enact sales taxes to meet increases in education and other costs which should be paid by the state.

301 Campaign to Aid Paralyzed Veterans

The Veterans Committee of Local 301 will open a drive Tuesday for the Schenectady Paraplegic Fund. The money will go to build homes for four World War II veterans paralyzed by injuries suffered in action.

Committee members will welcome the aid of every veteran in the plant in collecting contributions, Chairman Joseph Dominelli said.

Company Agrees On Call-In Pay

Workers who were sent home from the GE plant last December during the coal shortage, without being allowed to punch in, should put in their claims with their foreman for the two hours' call-in pay. This does not apply to workers who were told in advance not to go to work.

The company agreed last week in a New York discussion with Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, to pay the claims of employees not allowed to punch in. Claims must be properly verified, however — as by the foreman or time clerk. The company had previously agreed to pay workers who punched in.

Any difficulty in establishing your claim should be taken up with your shop committeeman.

Kearney Votes for Measure To Weaken Wage-Hour Act

Representative Bernard Kearney of Gloversville voted for the Gwynne bill outlawing portal-to-portal suits and undermining the Wage-Hour Act. The total vote was 345 to 56, a grave defeat for labor.

Kearney's fellow Republican, Dean Taylor of Troy, also voted for the bill. Congressman William T. Byrne of Albany County, Democrat with ALP endorsement, opposed it.

Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, pointed out labor still has a chance to fight against the bill in the Senate. If it passes the Senate, there's a chance of getting President Truman to veto it.

The bill goes far beyond the portal-to-portal issue to attack the Wage-Hour Law itself.

It enables a violator of the Wage-Hour Act to avoid punishment merely by establishing that he had "good intentions."

It permits any boss to settle a worker's claim out of court on an individual basis. That means an employer can put the squeeze on the worker himself.

It prevents a worker from bringing a claim against an employer later than one year from the time the work was done.

Engraving Machine Raise

A raise from 95½ cents an hour to \$1.02½ was won for the engraving machine job in Bldg. 37, in a grievance settlement in New York last week. The case had been in dispute since Oct. 17.

Electrical Union News

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Women Pensioner Recalls Days Before Union; Didn't Dare Ask GE What Her Hourly Pay Was

There's nothing Mrs. Nora A. Stanton would like better than to be signing up new members for Local 301 in Bldg. 69, but she's a pensioner now and has to do her union campaigning from the outside.

A matron in Bldg. 69, she was retired last May at the age of 65 after 20 years of service.

"I'd like a chance to tell every worker who hasn't joined the union yet what conditions were in the old days," she tells her friends.

"That's what I did when new girls came to work during the war—told them the difference before and after the union."

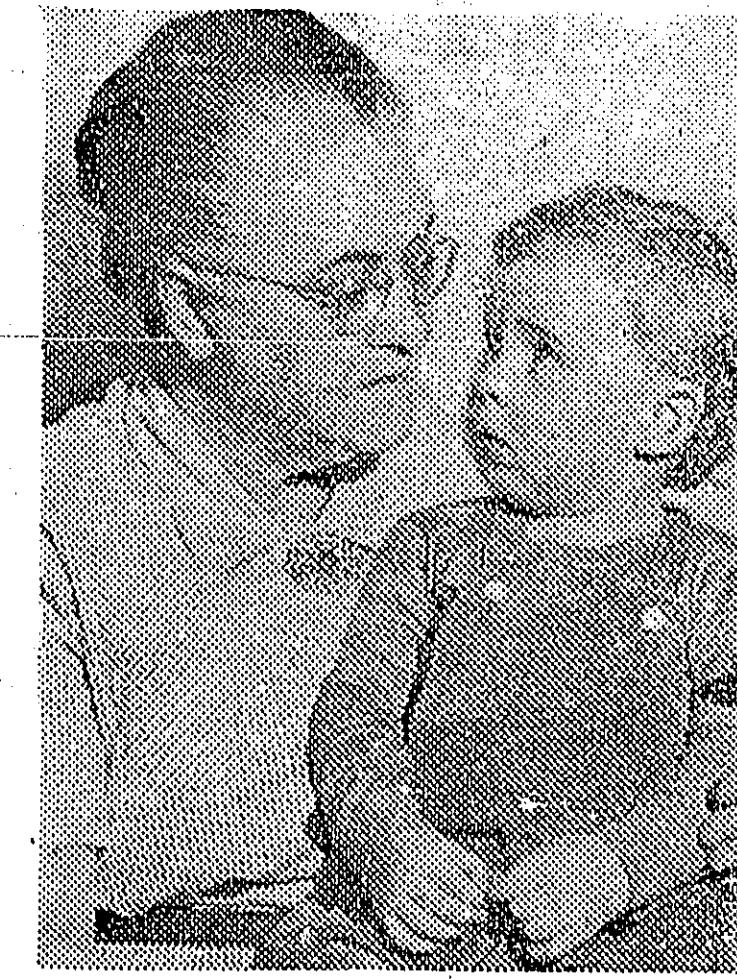
With an invalid husband and four children to support, Mrs. Stanton went to work at GE in 1926. Her late husband, for years a GE worker, suffered a nervous breakdown, she said, from speed-up "and the way the bosses threw him around."

Didn't Dare Ask Pay Rate

Mrs. Stanton didn't dare ask her first foreman what her hourly pay was, "for fear they'd lay me off." She found out later she was getting 35 cents an hour.

Once she made the mistake of protesting about having additional cleaning work to do.

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Mrs. Nora A. Stanton and grandson, Bryan Koch

Bldg. 69 Leads Race In Organizing Drive

Greatest headway in the 301 membership drive was reported this week from Bldg. 69 of which Stanley Bishop is chief steward. This building leads the rest of the plant with 32 applications.

Names of 26 more committeemen have been added to the honor roll, for 100 per cent union membership in the groups they represent.

The person who signs up the largest number of new UE members by May 1 will receive a \$100 U. S. bond. The second prize will be a \$50 bond and the third, a \$25 one.

Another feature of the organizing drive is an award of one dollar to any member for each application he hands in. As the competition is plantwide, within the Local 301 jurisdiction, members can sign up workers outside their own sections.

Jandreau to Report At Stewards' Session

The regular 301 committeemen's meeting for stewards on all shifts will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Apr. 1, at the union hall, 301 Liberty.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau will report on the UE-GE contract negotiations which were continued this week in New York City. There had been a week's recess at the request of the company.

A report will also be made on the organizing drive.

301 on Air

Tune in on the weekly Local 301 radio broadcast at 7:15 p.m. Monday over WSNY.

Meetings Called Over Deadlock In Machine Case

All toolmakers, tool room machine operators and machinists in machine repair in the works have been called to special meetings next week to consider what to do about the company's flat refusal to make any adjustment whatever in the rates for the machine repair and tool room machine men.

The day shift will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Mar. 31.

The night shift will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Apr. 1.

Both meetings will be at the union hall.

The meetings were called by the joint committee of toolmakers and machinists' representatives last Friday, after word was received that the national GE management, through J. W. Burnison, had refused to make any offer in the case, and had rejected all alternative suggestions from the union committee.

The machinists' committee of Lawrence Di Lallo, James Morrett, and Fred Pacelli, assisted by Leo Jandreau, business agent, discussed the case with Burnison Feb. 20. At that time Burnison promised an answer within a week or two. After repeatedly asking for more time, he finally told Jandreau on Mar. 20 that he had nothing to offer.

Under the contract grievance procedure, the union in this case is in the position of having gone to the end of the line without settling the dispute, and of being free to take any action the membership sees fit. That will be up to the meeting Monday and Tuesday.

Veterans' Center Opened With Formal Ceremonies

Formal opening of the Local 301 Veterans' Service and Information Center was scheduled for Wednesday night, after this week's copy of EU News went to press. Guests were to include Lee M. Allen, chairman of the Schenectady County Veterans Council, and officers of several veterans' groups.

Anti-Union Press Gunning for UE

As predicted in this paper a month ago, the red-baiting propaganda drive of the Big Business press against the UE has been stepped up as the union proceeds with contract bargaining and its organizing program. The newspaper campaign is part of the campaign in progress in Washington to restrict labor unions and destroy civil liberties.

Last week attacks on the national officers of UE came in the New York World-Telegram and Journal-American. These papers are published by Roy Howard and William Randolph Hearst, admirers of Hirohito, Hitler and Mussolini before the war. A major attack came in "Life", the magazine published by Henry Luce, who early in the war came out in favor of American Big Business running the whole world as the "American Century."

The same issue of "Life" also featured a piece making a hero out of George McNear, the president of the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railroad whose strikebreaking thugs murdered two pickets of the very conservative railroad unions. The article invited the inference that union men in turn killed McNear, although all the real evidence was that there was no connection between the strike and McNear's death.

The various articles attacking Julius Emspak and James Matles contained the usual red-baiting and name calling, but did not say what there was in the actions of the men that anyone could object to.

Of course, the Schenectady Gazette played up the attacks, and the Union-Star also ran a story, though not so prominently. The Gazette did print a short item on the fact that Matles had issued a pamphlet replying to an earlier Saturday Evening Post attack. The Gazette used the news after it was called to its attention by William Templeton, chairman of the 301 editorial committee. But when Templeton took it up with the Union-Star and suggested the story be obtained from the news services in

UE Pension Group To Meet Wednesday

Adequate old age pensions will be discussed from the angles of both legislation and collective bargaining, at the meeting of the UE-CIO 301 Pension Organization at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 2, at 301 Hall.

President Albert T. Van Der Zee has announced that the principal speaker will be Captain John Doyle Elliott, national representative of the Townsend movement.

The pension organization was formed recently by GE pensioners to fight for higher pensions, and to back the UE demand in GE negotiations for a minimum pension of \$100 a month.

New York, the city editor replied he would not use the story from Matles even if it did reach him.

The New York papers' articles against UE were based on supposed testimony by Louis Budenz and statements by the paper of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists.

Budenz, is an ex-Communist who has moved from one belief to another. He left the Catholic Church and attacked it bitterly and now claims to have returned to the Catholic faith.

The ACTU claims to speak for Catholic workers, but actually is an outside influence speaking for very few Catholic union members. It freely attacks any Catholic who opposes its red-baiting program.

Joining in the attack on UE here, in the midst of our organizing drive, were the so-called "Members for Democratic Action", the group directed by the Carey-Block faction. According to Wednesday's Gazette, the group is getting out a paper using the name of UE and red-baiting the national union.

Added to CIO Committee

William Templeton, as a member of the Local 301 Legislative Committee, was recently named by the Executive Board as an additional representative of the union on the Schenectady CIO Coordinating Committee. The other 301 members are President Andrew Peterson, William Mastriani, and Alfred J. Pelrah.

Moose River Bill

A bill to stop construction of the Higley mountain reservoir on the Moose River was endorsed by the Local 301 Executive Board. The Assembly at Albany defeated the bill by five votes.

Pensioner Recalls Days Before Union

(Continued from Page 1)

"They said there were plenty of people at the gates ready to take my job," she recalled.

"There wasn't anyone to speak up for you, the way there is now with the union."

Mrs. Stanton said many girls used to make as low as 23 cents an hour or less on piece work.

"They'd start crying when they got their pay," she said. "I hated Thursday to come—there were so many of them crying."

One girl asked a woman representative on the old Works Council to take up the matter of her getting only 23 cents.

"And do you know what the answer was?" Mrs. Stanton asked. "The woman told her any girl getting 23 cents an hour was getting good money."

Early Member of 301

Mrs. Stanton is proud of being one of the first members to join the union when it was first started in Schenectady.

"That was after Roosevelt was President," she said. "He made the union possible. And now look at what Congress is trying to do to unions."

The union brought Mrs. Stanton higher wages, shorter hours, better conditions, but she says that most important of all was "knowing you have somebody back of you."

At the time of her retirement, Local 301 won vacation pay for her which GE had refused to pay.

Her monthly GE pension check is \$4.40.

Several months ago she left Schenectady to live with a son-in-law and daughter in Albany. She has joined the new UE-CIO 301 Pension Organization to fight for \$100 a month pensions over and above Social Security and to back the union's contract negotiations.

"If working people don't have unions, they might as well fold up and die," she said.

CIO Broadcast

James D. White, president of Tri-City Newspaper Guild, CIO, will speak on the Capital District CIO Council's radio program at 12:15 p.m. Sunday over WOKO.

Because the regular WTRY broadcast would be Easter Sunday, the Council will have a broadcast Sunday, Mar. 30, at 2:00 p. m. over that station.

Attacks City Ban On Sound Trucks

The new ordinance forbidding the use of sound trucks is undoubtedly unconstitutional, President Andrew Peterson charged in a statement he issued this week at the direction of the Executive Board.

"It goes without saying that labor will not take this attack lying down," he declared.

"Our union will join with the rest of labor and all citizens who believe in civil liberties in working for the repeal of the ordinance. And at the proper time we shall take steps to test its legality in the courts."

The Board will cooperate with the Schenectady CIO Coordinating Committee in the fight against the anti-democratic city law.

To Fight Ordinance

President Peterson said that the City Council acted for a tiny minority, "the Big Business spokesmen who are now engaged all over the land in a wild drive to crush labor and destroy our liberties."

He pointed out that the ordinance was opposed at a public hearing by speakers from UE and the Steelworkers, representing the organized workers of GE and ALCO, "who constitute the real majority of the householders of this city."

"These are the people whom Mr. Merriam (Councilman Charles W. Merriam) attacked as 'minority groups.'"

The City Council passed the ordinance Monday night, several weeks after a public hearing at which nobody defended the proposed ordinance.

It forbids the use of sound trucks on city streets. It makes it necessary to get a permit to use amplifying or loud-speaker equipment located in private buildings and carrying sound to the streets. The city might refuse to let Local 301 use its own loud-speaker system, for instance.

301 Girls Team Wins City Basketball Title

The UE-301 girls' basketball team has won the city championship. Their last victory was scoring 28 to 19 recently in a game with the Commandos.

Now that the basketball season has ended, plans are underway for a 301 girls' softball team. Girls interested should notify Helen Quirini.

Taking Over Duties as Shop Committeemen



New stewards taking oath of office at March 18 meeting. Left to right, Emile Voris, Bldg. 53; John Boyd, Bldg. 285, and Henry Kaminski, Bldg. 76. They were sworn in by George Walker, guide.

Section Night Series To Commence Apr. 9

The Activities Committee has announced plans for a series of Section Nights at Local 301 Hall. The first one, for members in Bldgs. 18, 18A, 40 and 40B, will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 9. The affairs will be weekly.

Movies, entertainment, dancing and refreshments are planned. George Judway is chairman of the Activities Committee and E. J. La Bombard, secretary.

Advice to Letter Writers On Addressing Officials

The Legislative Committee of Local 301 has provided information on the proper way to address letters to Governor Dewey, U. S. senators and representatives in Congress.

Letters to the governor should be addressed: His Excellency, Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of New York, Albany, N. Y.

Letters to senators, The Honorable Robert F. Wagner or Irving M. Ives, Senator from New York, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Letters to Congressmen, The Honorable Bernard W. Kearney, (or name of your congressman) Congressman from the 31st District, N. Y., House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

All letters should start "Dear Sir." When the Congress is not in session, letters can be sent to the homes of senators and representatives.

Board Wants Opinions On Changing Pay Days

Because Schenectady banks will be closed Saturdays, starting this week, the union office asked GE management whether it would be willing to pay wages earlier in the week for the convenience of workers.

Management indicated it would be willing to change pay days to Wednesday and Thursday, instead of Thursday and Friday. Such an arrangement would mean that the first week of the change the pay day would cover only four days' earnings, instead of five.

The Local 301 Executive Board is finding out the opinion of union members on the proposal.

Local 301 Votes \$500 For Mario Russo Fund

A \$500 donation to the Mario Russo fund has been voted by the membership of Local 301. Russo, a young veteran and UE member, was fatally shot July 30, 1946, while picketing at the strike-bound Phelps Dodge plant at Elizabeth, N. J.

The fund has been established to help with the education and support of Russo's children. The Local 301 donation was recommended by the Executive Board and a Committeemen's meeting.

To Aid Cancer Fund

President Andrew Peterson has named a four-member committee to collect for the Cancer Fund through shop committeemen. The four are Dewey Brashear, Mary M. McCartin, James Cognetta and Adam Boss.

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