



### Veterans' Vacation Appeal Is Slated

The veterans' vacation pay case, based on the claims of five members of Local 301 against GE, is expected to be argued in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals late this month. It is a test case involving the rights of thousands of veterans in GE plants to vacation pay for the year in which they returned from service. National UE attorneys filed an appeal from a lower court decision in favor of the company.

The Schenectady veterans who brought the suit against GE are John Siaskiewicz, Joseph Dominelli, James Wood and Frank Chiaro, who served in the armed forces, and J. Sikora, who served in the Merchant Marine. Siaskiewicz and Dominelli were reemployed in 1945, after July 1, and the others were reemployed in 1946, after July 1. The company refused to grant them vacations with pay for the year in which they returned. GE took the position that a returned veteran had to work for six months before getting a vacation and that people who returned in the second six months of a year were just out of luck.

Siaskiewicz sued for \$80 and Dominelli for \$105.20 vacation pay for 1945; Sikora for \$102.40; Wood for \$110.80 and

### State Legislative Program of UE

Representatives of District 3 and District 4, UE, recently adopted the following New York State legislative program for the 1948 session:

- 1. Unemployment Insurance.**  
Increase unemployment insurance benefits from present maximum of \$21 to \$30, from present minimum of \$10 to \$15. An additional \$3 per week for each dependent up to and including three dependents. Repeal "merit rating" law.
- 2. Workmen's Compensation.**  
Increase compensation benefits from present maximum of \$28 to \$35, from present minimum of \$12 to \$18.
- 3. Housing.**  
Authorize 500 million dollars and necessary subsidies for low rent public housing projects. Set up a state program of unsubsidized public housing for middle income groups.
- 4. Anti-Inflation Measures.**  
Memorialize Congress to restore effective price controls, and to extend and strengthen rent control. Extend N. Y. State rent control to July 1, 1949, and strengthen the law by fixing ceilings as of June 30, 1947, protecting against evictions and guaranteeing landlord services.
- 5. Repeal the Condon-Wadlin anti-strike law.**
- 6. Veterans.**  
Repeal the 1947 law (Chap. 548) which increases the cigarette tax so that veterans must pay for their own bonds. Provide state guaranteed loans to veterans.
- 7. State and City Finances.**  
Repeal the Dewey tax cuts designed to benefit mainly upper bracket taxpayers. Revise the Moore Formula upwards, so that the state will return a greater share of the state collected taxes to localities. Repeal the unfair Dewey local tax laws of 1947 which seek to shift the tax burden to those least able to pay. Grant homestead exemptions to family size farms. Amend State Constitution to allow cities to increase real estate taxes, with a \$2500 exemption for the benefit of home owners and small farms.
- 8. Taft-Hartley.**  
Memorialize Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act. Oppose any attempt to pass a N. Y. State "little Taft-Hartley Act".

### Checking by Guards

Last week's issue of the EU News warned members that it was advisable to demand that their shop steward be present if they are called in and questioned by supervision or company guards. Apparently a few members interpreted this as referring to the routine examination of packages by guards at gates. There is of course no objection to this established duty of the guards. The purpose in calling for a shop steward is to protect the member's rights in cases where an accusation or suspicion is directed at a worker, and a guard sergeant or chief questions him with a view to getting a statement that might be used against the worker.

Chiaro for \$85.20 vacation pay for 1946.

The union charged that GE violated the Selective Service Act by not granting vacation pay, as required by the contract. By refusing to pay, GE penalized them for serving their country and discriminated against them as to vacation and seniority.

### Local Presses Fight For Veterans' Credits

The Executive Board will be asked to carry to the national grievance level Local 301's request that veterans graduating from the apprentice machinist course be given credit for time in the armed forces, to the extent of giving them the "C" Toolmaker job rate. The apprentices now receive 10 cents below the C rate and take a year to reach that rate.

Louis Male, general superintendent, told Leo Jandreau last Friday that the company would give the veterans on the course no special consideration in their rates. Discussing a specific case of a vet graduate in Bldg. 28, Male admitted he had been doing high class work, but said it was no better than work done by many other recent apprentice graduates.

Jandreau is recommending that the case be carried to the top level.

COMPLETE THE ORGANIZING  
JOB NOW

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 . . . U. E. R. & M. W. A. . . . C. I. O.

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

January 9, 1948

## UE To Seek Substantial Pay Raise

### Confer With Corsi On Rem-Rand Crisis

Leo Jandreau, UE District 3 president, and Michael Perlin, District 3 attorney, had a conference last Friday in New York City with Edward F. Corsi, state industrial commissioner, on the Remington-Rand situation.

The UE representatives gave him the complete history of Rem-Rand's refusal to honor its agreements with the union and its efforts to force another strike.

Earlier last week Jandreau had telegraphed Governor Dewey urging that he use his influence to induce Rem-Rand to live up to its agreements, and to negotiate with UE, in the interests of averting industrial strife in New York state. Charles Breitel, the Governor's counsel, wrote Jandreau that the matter had been referred to Commissioner Corsi.

### \$300 Award Is Made To Kriss Against GE

A workman's compensation award of \$300 has been made to Frank C. Kriss, new Board member of Local 301, for an injury received early last year when his milling machine cracked in Bldg. 105. A piece of the machine missed his right eye by a fraction of an inch and cut his face to the bone.

After the injury healed, a scar remained.

Kriss filed a claim against GE with the Workmen's Compensation Board. At the first hearing Oct. 23 he was not represented by a lawyer. The GE attorney insisted there was no scar.

The case was adjourned until Nov. 7, when Kriss was represented by the 301 attorney, Leon Novak. Kriss was examined by a state doctor who filed a report that he had a permanent scar. In spite of this re-

### 100 Per Cent Wrong

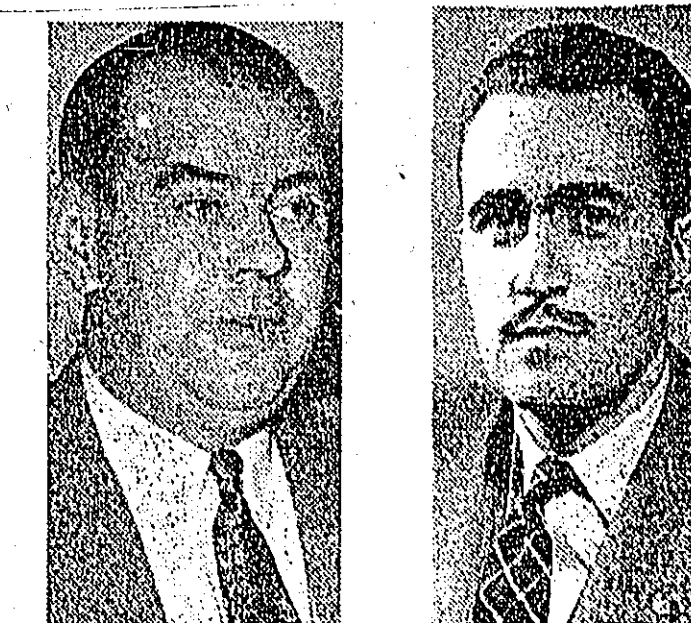
An Associated Press story which appeared in the Schenectady Gazette Wednesday contained the completely false statement that UE announced it will file a 60-day notice of intention to terminate contracts with the major electrical companies.

UE officers stated weeks ago that the union would not file termination notices, but would use the modification provisions of the contracts to open negotiations on wages and working conditions. Jan. 1 was the date for either GE or the union to file intention of termination, if either side planned to. Neither one filed.

### Increase Vital To Offset High Cost of Living

UE will ask "substantial wage increases" for the 300,000 workers employed by the Big Three of the electrical industry, GE, Westinghouse and the electrical division of General Motors, in approaching negotiations.

The program was drawn up at a two-day conference in New York City this week of delegates from 90 GE locals and



Fitzgerald

Matles

### National UE Officers To Visit Schenectady

Officers, Executive Board members and stewards from all shifts will attend the meeting at 301 Hall at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday, January 14, at which the three top national UE officers will speak. Other members of the local will be welcome. Representatives will also be present from other UE locals.

President Albert J. Fitzgerald, Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak, and James Matles, director of organization, are making a coast-to-coast trip visiting key locals to discuss problems facing the union.

### National UE Broadcast

The Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, is at 7:30 p. m. every Wednesday over WSNY, WROW and WBCA (FM).

At the final hearing Jan. 2 neither the GE attorney nor the GE doctor made any claim that the condition was not permanent. Referee Megan closed the case and awarded the \$300.

from Westinghouse and GM locals. Leo Jandreau, Andrew Peterson and Marshall White represented 301. Jandreau was elected to the eight-man national GE negotiating committee.

Sharp increases in the price of food and other commodities make a "substantial" pay increase essential, the union pointed out. A recent union survey shows an 83 per cent rise in the prices of 10 basic foods. This fact "is not affected by General Electric's five per cent reduction on some products like electric blankets," President Albert J. Fitzgerald of UE said.

### Wages Down \$13.03

The conference set no specific wage goal. James J. Matles, director of organization, and chief negotiator, said the aim would be to make up for as much of the cost-of-living rise as possible. He declared that the real weekly (Continued on Page 3)



## GE Arbitration Case Won by UE

As the result of arbitration, the General Electric Co. has been directed to reinstate with full back pay Felicia Carter, shop steward fired last April from the lamp plant at Newark, N. J. The back pay is expected to come to about \$2,000.

UE charged that the dismissal of Mrs. Carter was a clearcut case of discrimination because of her union activity. She is a member of Local 429.

Arbitrator Christopher Hoey of the American Arbitration Association upheld the discrimination charge. He found the GE had violated Article IV, Section 1 of the UE-GE contract which says:

"There shall be no discrimination by foremen, superintendents or other agents of the Company at any Works of the Company against any employee because of the employee's membership in the Union."

He also held that the manner of her dismissal violated the contract provisions on "disciplinary cases."

During the arbitration hearings the company tried unsuccessfully to show that Mrs. Carter's work was unsatisfactory compared with other workers. But the company's own records, which the union succeeded in getting produced, disproved the company's claims.

The arbitrator pointed out that during the period between the first and third warning notices issued to Mrs. Carter, and immediately before the first warning, her record was "better than for any comparable period in the history of her employment by the company." The second warning notice was handed to her the day after she submitted a grievance for a woman worker.

The union's case emphasized the fact that Mrs. Carter's foreman said he wouldn't recognize her as shop steward even though the workers had elected her. The foreman testified at the hearings, but never denied the statement.

The case is extremely important to Local 301 and all GE locals because it is the first case that the union has been

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Published by the Editorial Committee  
William Templeton, Chairman  
Mary McCartin, Secretary  
Willard Kuschel, Victor Pasche  
Leland Sisto

Editorial Office - Electrical Union News  
301 Liberty St. Schenectady, N. Y.  
Telephone 3-1986

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### Why Not Eat Hay?

Here's a GE suggestion for reducing the cost of living.

David C. Prince, a GE vice president, is reported as having told the Electric Club in Toronto:

"The U. S. cost of living could be brought down considerably if people didn't eat so much meat. Meat products are an uneconomical way of feeding people."

### UE Recognized At More Plants

UE recently won recognition as collective bargaining agent at three more plants.

It took a two-day strike at the J. C. Hug Company, Richmond, Ind., to get contract negotiations started. Local 475 had to picket four days at the Gaudio Metal Products plant, New York City, before the company agreed to negotiate a contract and to rehire locked-out workers. As a result of a card check at the Leckna Company, Bayside, L. I., the union established its bargaining rights.

able to get GE to submit to arbitration in about two years. The union's victory in this arbitration should remind GE officials that the company has a contract with the union which must be lived up to.

### More Money Donated For Children's Gift

Additional contributions raised by Vice-President William Hodges and stewards in the section of Board Member Anthony Esposito have almost completed payment on the movie projector given to the Schenectady Children's Home as a Christmas present from Local 301 members.

Board Member Willard Kuschel, who started the fund, has asked stewards to raise some more money. Any money left after completing payment on the projector will buy films for the children. The first showing was given the children last Friday, with cartoon films lent by George's Film Service. William Templeton and Gordon Belgrave of Local 301 ran the projector.

### Gaeth Speech

The national UE radio broadcaster, Arthur Gaeth, will speak on "This Is Washington Calling" at 8 p.m. Thursday at Nott Terrace High School auditorium at one of the Cooperative Evening School Assemblies.

THE STRONGER THE UNION,  
THE BETTER THE CONTRACT.

## Rush Starts for Bonus Applications at 301 Hall



Scene at 301 Hall last Friday when veterans started filling out their applications for the state bonus. The girl at the table is Jean Dandareau of the office staff. William Kelly, an assistant to the business agent, is standing at the extreme left. Veterans can obtain help in filling out the forms and have the applications notarized at the union hall from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. every Monday through Friday. Over 300 veterans had

made use of this service when EU News went to press this week. [To help veterans get photostatic copies made quickly of their discharge or separation papers, the union has made arrangements with the Hayden Photo Copy at 129 Railroad St. Photostatic copies will be made there for Local 301 members within 48 hours at 25 cents a photostat. The copies must be filed with the applications.]

### UE Will Seek Substantial Raise

(Continued from Page 1)

wage of the average worker in the electrical manufacturing industry has fallen \$13.03 since January 1945 even including wage increases won.

Contract proposals also call for various other improvements, as in vacations, sick leave and pensions. The entire list of proposals will be brought before the Local 301 membership and shop stewards' meeting Jan. 20. The bulk of the recommendations made by Local 301 for the 1948 bargaining program were adopted at the New York conference.

Referring to the highly advertised GE price cut on some items, President Fitzgerald said:

"The elected representatives of 160,000 GE workers believe that reductions in the prices of any products are highly desirable. But few workers will be able to afford the privilege of paying 5 per cent or even 10 per cent less for a \$500 television receiver, a \$350 air conditioning apparatus, a \$240 automatic dishwasher or a \$40 electric blanket—four of the several products featured in the GE price announcement.

"The people don't eat television re-

### It Isn't News

More than 20,000 companies violated the Wage-Hour Law last year and illegally withheld more than 18 million dollars in wages. That is what the Wage-Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor reported recently. The Division admitted the law had not been enforced and the companies won't be prosecuted.

Almost every newspaper and radio station in the country suppressed or played down this news. Can you imagine what would have happened if 20,000 labor unions had been found guilty of such robbery?

ceivers. They don't wear automatic dishwashers, and most of them are more worried about the rising prices of fuel than they are about keeping warm with luxury-price electric blankets"

"We are in favor of lower prices—not only nominal price cuts on automatic dishwashers and television receivers, but substantial reductions in the costs of food and rent and fuel and clothing, on all the basic necessities of the average American family."

### 'Down Payment' Won In Sperry Contract

The Sperry Corporation at Lake Success, L. I., has agreed to pay a 7 cents-an-hour "down payment" wage increase as of Dec. 1 after negotiating with UE Local 450 for a month. The company also agreed to a wage reopening Apr. 15, by which date presumably the wage pattern of the industry will be set. If the union and the company can't agree on this second wage raise, the matter is to be arbitrated and any increase is to be effective as of Apr. 15.

The company also stated it would waive all efforts to use the Taft-Hartley Law against the union.

### Shop Stewards Collect For Peter Virgin Fund

On authorization of the 301 Executive Board, shop stewards are collecting donations from workers for the Peter Virgin fund.

Mr. Virgin, former featherweight champion, came to the support of 301 by appearing in the picket lines during the 1946 strike at GE. Now his friends are raising money to help defray the cost of a serious injury he received in his professional work.