

# Electrical Union News

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

June 13, 1946

## Dominelli Heads Vets Delegation To Demand City Act on Housing

## UE, GE Clash On Piece Work As Week Opens

Joseph Dominelli of Local 301 will lead a delegation of the Joint Veterans Housing Committee tonight when the vets tackle the City Council caucus meeting on Schenectady's housing shortage.

The committee represents vets of Local 2054, USA; 128, Steamfitters, AFL, and 301, UE. Any interested veteran is invited to join the group at 7:30 p. m. at City Hall.

"Schenectady's number one problem is housing for veterans," Dominelli said in a recent statement.

### Housing Crisis

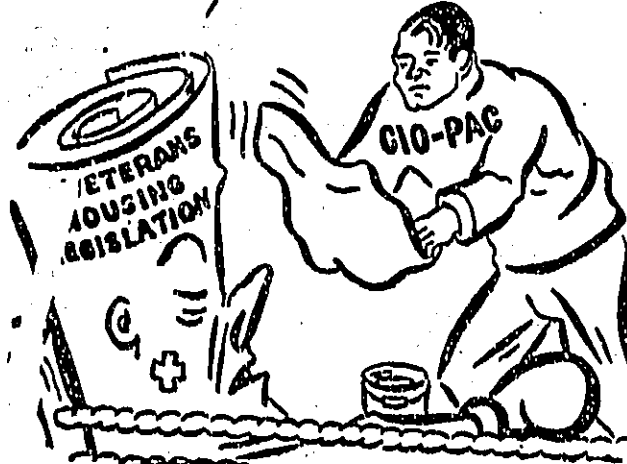
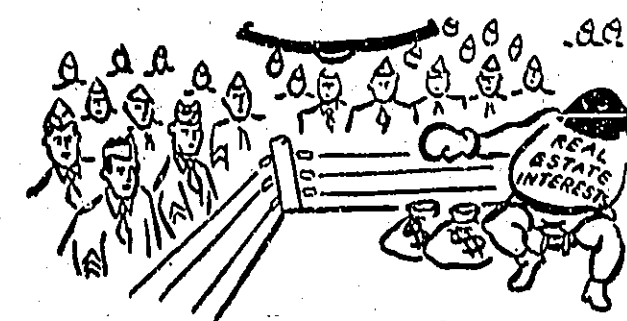
"More than 1500 veterans and their families are without decent homes. Moreover, many other hundreds of our citizens cannot find a suitable place to live.

"Several building programs have been considered and one or two begun, but it is becoming painfully clear that even if all the proposed housing projects were to be completed within the next six months Schenectady would fall far short of its housing needs. While there are hopeful signs of long range Federal housing programs being started, none of these will alleviate the crisis for a long time to come.

### Federal Aid Ready

"We feel that steps must be taken to provide moderately priced emergency housing as quickly as possible. Such housing is available now under the relocation plan of the Federal Public Housing Authority. However, there are a limited number of units on hand. Other cities of lower priority than Schenectady are making application and are obtaining housing. Unless Schenectady immediately requests these houses, quotas now available to us will be allotted to other cities. We feel that there is no reason why Schenectady should lag behind. This is the moment to act.

"Therefore, we ask that the Mayor and the City Council discuss this question at the next meeting of the Council and immediately file application for at least 1000 emergency housing units from the Federal Public Housing Authority."



THE VETERANS KNOW WHO'S IN THEIR CORNER

## Race for Queen Gathers Speed

Betty Colandra of Building 69 was leading the field in the contest for queen of the Local 301 Field Day in the latest report by Foster Campbell, chairman of the committee.

However, there are 17 more days of ticket selling between now and the big June 30 celebration at Pete and Sally's Grove. As every ticket sold in a girl's name gets her 50 points, it's still anybody's crown.

Girls competing for the \$100 war bond, title of queen and inscribed cup include: Marie Sweeney, Bldg. 69; Sophie Pajak, Bldg. 14; Genevieve Puglia, Bldg. 53; Doris Disoway, Bldg. 5; Corinne Eddy, Bldg. 97, and the candidate of the Office Workers Organizing Committee, Tillie Skrocki.

Miss Skrocki, a clerical worker in the Resin and Insulation Department in Bldg. 77, is an active member of the

(Continued on Page 3)

Negotiations for the new General Electric contract went into night sessions this week in New York City as UE and management representatives argued over the problem of piece work.

"The company and the union are having trouble over the piece work question," Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, reported at the end of last week's meetings.

The GE claims that jobs are often out of line and wants the right to take a time study of any job whenever it pleases, according to Jandreau.

"Of course the language of the company's proposal isn't as blunt as that," he said, "but it means the same thing. The result would really be an open season on rate changes."

The union negotiators told the company that over the years the union has achieved some degree of security for piece workers and won't allow it to be taken away.

The present contract will expire July 1.

## New Stewards Are Elected

The latest group of shop committeemen elected is as follows:

Virginia Murphy .....	Bldg. 53
Joseph Kelly .....	Bldg. 16
Arthur De Lucia .....	Bldg. 20
Joseph McCormick .....	Bldg. 60
Joseph Struffolino .....	Bldg. 53
Chester Salinski .....	Bldg. 285

## To Attend Convention

Five delegates will represent Local 301 at the eleventh annual convention of UERMWA Sept. 9 to Sept. 13 at the Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.

They are Leo Jandreau, Andrew Peterson, William Mastriani, Marshall White and Edward Wallingford.

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## Warns of Danger In Truman Order

A bulletin by the Civil Rights Congress warns that "President Truman's order to mobilize the U. S. Navy to break the strike of the seven maritime unions is the latest in a series of unparalleled moves which, if not reversed by popular protest, will open a postwar period of repression by force that stops at nothing."

Skilled seamen get \$28.16 for a 56 hour-week, the bulletin points out. Drastic paycuts were handed them at the end of the war. For seven months, shipping corporations refused to negotiate the demands of the unions for a 40-hour week, eight hour day and overtime pay.

"Truman's order to the Navy greatly reinforced the shipowners' refusal to bargain," the bulletin states.

"The maritime unions have made it perfectly clear that the strike will not affect the sailing of relief or troop ships."

Senator George D. Aiken (Rep., Vt.) has already called for a Congressional investigation of the huge wartime shipping profits, as "the most shocking story of collusion, corruption and disregard of public interest."

The Civil Rights Congress urged unions and individual members to write or wire President Truman and members of Congress protesting the use of the U. S. Navy to break the strike of maritime workers.

## Council to Meet

Capitol—District Industrial Union Council, CIO, will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, at CIO Hall, 301 Liberty St. William Mastriani of Local 301, new president, and other officers will be installed.

## Joins Housing Group

Robert Northrop, Local 2054, USA, is the latest addition to the Mayor's Housing Committee. Edward Wallingford, Local 301, was appointed earlier.

## Judge Your Congressman by His Vote, Not by His Fine Words About Veterans

Veterans should pay attention to the voting record of their Congressman, not to the number of times he says, "I'm a friend of the veterans" or "Why, I'm a veteran myself."

## Who Owes What to Whom? \$75 Question Answered

Did you get the right amount of retroactive pay?

If you figure out that the GE still owes you money, take your facts to the Local 301 business office.

A retroactive pay case was successfully adjusted recently, but the longer an employe waits the larger it is to check back on all the facts.

The employe complained to the union office that he didn't get any retroactive pay when pay adjustments were made under the War Labor Board order of Apr. 30, 1945.

"Why, he not only hasn't any retroactive pay coming to him" the GE management told the union, "but according to our figures he was actually overpaid \$75 during the year."

The union representative suggested that GE recheck its arithmetic. Sure enough, the company had overlooked the fact that the worker had been transferred to another group.

GE worked out the problem a second time and said the employe has \$80 to \$75 retroactive pay coming to him.

## City Can Get U. S. Housing

Schenectady can get emergency housing for veterans free for the asking if it applies immediately to the Federal Public Housing Authority.

The Local 301 radio program recently gave this tip to the public, with a warning that if the city doesn't act soon the chance may be lost.

"Any city in the country requesting emergency housing for veterans can get it by applying to the FPHA," Milo Lathrop, union radio broadcaster, said.

"The FPHA will give the houses to the city, transport them to the site without charge, and put them up. — The only cost to the city would be preparing the site."

The housing consists of relocated Army barracks.

Dewey Brashear, secretary of the Local 301 Veterans' Committee, gave this advice in a statement prepared for the EU News.

"Some of the Congressmen who shout the most about their interest in veterans were responsible for Section 800 of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 which bars unemployment insurance to veterans in strikes.

"What Rankin and many other Congressmen don't seem to realize is that most veterans are workers and they know that an anti-labor vote is an anti-veteran vote."

Brashear said that Bernard W. Kearney, World War I veteran who represents Schenectady in the House, is typical of the "professional veteran" Congressman with a bad voting record on labor and liberal measures.

"There are just a couple of differences here and there in the Rankin and Kearney votes. They rank just about even in the record of bad voting."

Brashear said veterans at GE know that the Case and Truman bills are threats to both their freedom and their lunch pails.

## Prepare New Issue Of 'Office Digest'

The publicity committee of the Office Workers Organizing Committee met Tuesday to plan the next issue of "Office Digest", its news sheet.

The publicity group includes Tom Herkenham, Mildred Winney, William Galusha, George Bason and Dr. Robert Green.

In its organizing work, the OWO has been greeted by many questions concerning the coal, railroad and maritime strike situations. The committee devoted a session to discussing these problems thoroughly, to be able to answer office workers' questions fully and accurately. George Katz led the discussion.

## At FEPC Dinner

Dewey Brashear, Local 301 delegate, represented the Capitol District Industrial Union Council, CIO, at a recent dinner meeting in Albany in connection with the organizing of an Albany FEPC Council.

## Displaced Workers Start Back to Jobs

The General Electric Co. has started reinstating Schenectady employes who were displaced by veterans in violation of the UE contract seniority provisions.

These reinstatements are the result of the recent United States Supreme Court decision against veterans' super-seniority.

The displaced workers, some of them laid off and others demoted, were "bumped" by veterans with less seniority. The GE took the stand that the Selective Service Act gave any returned veteran seniority over any non-veteran regardless of length of service.

The Supreme Court decision made it clear that a veteran's seniority can be based only on his time in employment plus his time in military service. He doesn't have priority over someone hired earlier than he was.

Any member of the union who has not yet been returned to a job from which he was removed under the GE super-seniority interpretation should notify the Local 301 business office at once.

## CIO Council to Aid Freeport Committee

The Capitol District Industrial Union Council, CIO, has voted to aid the Justice in Freeport Committee. This committee was formed after a Negro soldier and his brother were shot to death in Freeport, L. I. Feb. 6 by a white policeman.

The committee has urged Governor Dewey to order a special investigation of the killings, but so far the Governor hasn't even met with the group. The policeman was whitewashed by a grand jury which did not indict him.

Meanwhile the War Department granted full pension rights to the widow of the soldier, Charles Ferguson, after a thorough investigation of the case.

General H. J. Arnold recently issued an unusual citation to the late Private Ferguson, "who gave his life in the performance of his duty, Feb. 6, 1946."

The citation states also that Ferguson "lived to bear his country's arms. He died to save its honor. — And we who pay him homage and revere his memory in solemn pride rededicate ourselves to a complete fulfillment of the task for which he so gallantly has placed his life upon the altar of man's freedom."

Still no word from Governor Dewey!

## Union Calendar

Monday, June 17—Activities Committee meeting.

Tuesday, June 18—Regular Membership meeting.

Office Workers Organizing Committee.

Wednesday, June 19—Capitol District CIO Council Meeting.

Monday, June 24—Activities meeting.

## Stubborn Owners Cause Copper Supply Shortage

Shortages in copper are due to the stubbornness of the copper companies in refusing to settle with UE and the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers, CIO, for an 18½ cents an hour raise.

This situation is described in a letter to Andrew Peterson Local 301 president, from the UE research department.

Peterson requested information because of the close connection between copper supply and GE production.

The Mine, Mill and Smelter workers have the big three copper mining outfits organized, Phelps-Dodge, Anaconda and Kennecott. UE has the copper fabricating industry in Anaconda Wire and Cable (three plants) Phelps-Dodge at Ft. Wayne and Elizabeth, N. J., and Essex Wire and Cable at Ft. Wayne.

The IBEW (AFL) has Phelps Dodge at Haverstraw and two plants of General Cable.

About three months ago, MMSWA and UE asked the copper companies for and 18½ cent an hour across-the-board raise. When the companies refused, MMSWA struck the copper mines and UE struck the west coast plant of General Cable, Phelps Dodge and Anaconda.

IBEW settled for 10 cents an hour at its two plants at General Cable, in New Jersey after some wild-cat strikes.

Here is the score at present on the CIO strikes. MMSWA won its Anaconda strike by getting 16½ cents and is still on strike at Phelps Dodge and Kennecott mines.

UE won the General Cable strike and the Essex Wire and Cable strike with the full 18½ cents. UE is still on strike at Phelps Dodge.

Phelps Dodge management is making "a real effort to completely destroy the union", the national UE office said.

## Urge \$500 Gift For UE Strikers

The Executive Board of Local 301 has recommended that \$500 be donated to UE strikers at Tonawanda, who have been on the picket line since April. The money will be divided between Local 306 and Local 319.

This recommendation was approved by a recent Committeemen's meeting and will be presented to the general membership meeting next Tuesday.

**Tune in!**  
**C.I.O. PROGRAM**  
MON WED FRI  
7:15 P.M. OR FOLLOWING  
BALL GAME  
**WSNY 1240 ON EVERY DIAL**