

Toolmakers' and Machinists' Statement

A resolution protesting the "stubborn refusal" of GE to negotiate a reasonable settlement of the toolmakers' and machinists' wage rate cases was adopted unanimously by a meeting of toolmakers, machinists and tool room machine operators Jan. 17 at 301 Hall, and reaffirmed at the meeting Monday afternoon.

The resolution declared:

"The wage cases started on our behalf by Local 301 were modest proposals to correct the long-standing inequities in our wages in the light of the requirements of our jobs and the rates paid elsewhere for such work.

"We have shown great patience in pressing these cases and in going through the slow grievance procedure and the many stalls upon which the company insists in its dealings with us.

GE Ignores Wage Arguments

"The company's response to our reasonable attitude has been to ignore our rights and our problems. Its negotiators have admitted that our wage relationship to the community has gone down. They do not deny that we have a sound case for increases. They make no attempt to meet the fact that other plants in the wage area picked by the company itself pay higher rates for our jobs. And the company has recognized by specific act that its rates for skilled crafts were out of line, by granting an increase of 10 cents to one craft, the patternmakers. This has brought the patternmakers 10 cents above the toolmakers, though the company does not deny that the skills are equal and that the rates have always been the same in the past.

Company Wants Super-Profits

"The company's attitude is neither fair nor reasonable. It is contrary to the spirit of our agreement and of genuine collective bargaining. The company simply is determined to keep on making super-profits at our expense.

"We are determined to win redress of our just grievances, and shall continue to insist that the company engage in real collective bargaining on our wage inequities and grievances. We condemn the statement of Charles E. Wilson that our demands represent only the views of union leaders. Our officers are pressing demands which we, the toolmakers and machinists, believe are overdue."

Blood Bank Committee

The possibility of setting up a Local 301 blood bank will be investigated by a committee named by the Executive Board. The committee members are Edward Bazan, Helen Quirini and George Judway. The Jan. 7 membership meeting directed the Board to take up the matter.

Close Name Lists in Gate-to-Gate Suits

No more signatures will be taken for the present by 301 committeemen for authorization in the national UE's portal-to-portal suit against GE. Because of the technical requirements of the legal action filed by the union, taking of signed authorizations closed this week.

The court action will now await hearings and decisions along with the many other such cases brought by other unions.

Help March-of-Dimes

The Activities Committee of 301 announced this week that proceeds of the dance on February 7 will go to the "March of Dimes" fund for the benefit of infantile paralysis victims. The decision changed the previously-announced beneficiary.

The dance will be held at Turner Hall, 863 Albany Street, Friday night, February 7, with music by Larry Audette.

The Activities Committee will meet again at 8 p.m. Monday, January 27, in Room 2B at the Union Hall.

301 Members Need Share-a-Ride Plan

Two members living in Hudson Falls and Ballston Spa are urgently in need of a rider arrangement with drivers from those towns. The member from Hudson Falls is in Bldg. 278 and works the 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift. The member from Ballston Spa is in Bldg. 60, and works from 3:30 p.m. to midnight.

Anyone willing to have one of these as a rider is asked to call William Kelly, assistant to the business agent, at the Local 301 office — phone 3-1386.

Legislative Group Opens 1947 Action

An immediate campaign against the flood of anti-labor bills introduced in the new Congress was planned by the 1947 Legislative Committee of Local 301 at its first meeting last Thursday. The committee consists of one representative from each section, elected in December at the same time as Executive Board members.

Fred Pacelli, Bldg. 101, was elected chairman Thursday; Joseph J. Krone, Bldg. 46, vice-chairman, and George Walker, Bldg. 73, secretary. The committee will meet Tuesday, Jan. 28, and later twice a month.

Letter to Ives

The committee voted to write U. S. Senator Irving Ives to demand that he live up to his campaign promises that he would favor Labor. He will be called upon to oppose the Wagner act amendments and other anti-labor measures introduced by his fellow-Republicans. The committee also will write to President Truman, Senator Wagner, and New York Congressmen, urging defeat of the anti-labor bills.

Protest to Dewey

A protest to Governor Dewey against the policy of inaction in his annual message was voted by the committee. The letter will call for action on rent control and housing, taxes, veterans' legislation, health insurance, improved unemployment insurance, wage-hour law, and against racial discrimination.

The group will establish immediate contact with Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, to work with him in carrying out the CIO legislative program.

The committee was hampered at its first meeting by the absence of six of its fifteen members.

Machine Crafts

(Continued from Page 1)

ments on the machinists' rates generally, but said that a raise for them would affect "every day work rate in the works."

Machinists were represented by Martin Maul, Jr., Lawrence Di Lallo, A. J. Esposito, Henry Busse, Anthony Villano, Leonard Reichel, Adam T. Glover, T. Alan Edwards, Lawrence Geba, W. W. Selby, C. F. Ossentfort, A. H. Keller, James Morrett, Stanley Aldous, Joseph Whitbeck, Fred Pacelli, and Michael Tedisco, assisted by Victor Pasche.

Electrical Union News

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Company to Reject Retirement Appeals

Local Management will turn down the appeal of any worker who comes under the new pension plan for postponement of his compulsory retirement, no matter how small his pension may be.

An application for permission to continue working will not even be submitted to the Pension Board if the worker reached the age of 65 Sept. 1 or later.

The union was informed of this policy of the company by Charles Marcy, supervisor of personnel at the Schenectady plant, at a meeting Friday. Several months ago, at a meeting in New York City on a national level, GE officials said postponement applications would be dealt with on an individual basis. No mention was made then of limiting appeals only to workers retired under the old pension system or closing the doors to appeals in hardship cases.

Several postponement applications, handled by the union, have been granted and others await decision of the Pension Board. These involved workers who reached 65 before Sept. 1.

Marcy said Friday the company could not consider the problem on the basis of the worker's financial needs, and that the pension was not intended to take care of the worker's needs, but only to supplement his savings.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, added that the question of extending a man's service beyond the age of 65 was not a question of the man's needs, but "a question whether the company can operate successfully without them."

"A pension is a reward for long and faithful service," Stevens said, "plus an incentive to stay with the company. It has no social intent."

One of the union's proposals in the coming contract negotiations is that the minimum pension for any retired GE employee be \$100 a month.

Supports Teachers

The Capital District CIO Council has written state legislators urging that they vote for a permanent, substantial pay raise for teachers.

GE Censorship

GE management at Syracuse refused to let notices be posted in the plant about a meeting for all UE locals in the city Tuesday. The reason for the refusal was that the notice stated "Deadline for Action" would be shown. The GE officials decided showing the union movie wasn't union business.

Albany CIO Conference To Hear Pressman, Nixon

Lee Pressman, general counsel for the CIO, and Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, will speak on Feb. 15 at a legislative conference of the Capital District CIO Council at Albany.

Members of all CIO unions in the area are invited to the conference. In addition, members of other groups will be asked to attend.

At Council Meeting

Local 301 delegates who attended the January meeting of the Capital District CIO Council at 301 Hall were William Mastriani, Council president; Dewey Brashear, Albert Davis, Rudy Ellis, Joseph Dominelli, Sam De Cesare, Joseph Krone and Fred Pacelli.

Aids March of Dimes

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 is co-chairman of the industry committee of the March of Dimes drive in Schenectady County. Proceeds will benefit infantile paralysis victims.

Note Your Lost Time

Committeemen are urged again by the union business office, whenever they lose time on union business inside or outside the plant, to make sure that the foreman marks their clock card for the hours lost. If a pink voucher for lost time is missing, the payroll department will check with the foreman provided the clock card is marked.

This protects the committeeman against possible errors on his lost time.

Toolmakers Win Pay Progression

Automatic progression to the top of the rate range in each classification has been established for toolmakers through the union's case to obtain wage adjustments for that group.

The company offer, accepted by a meeting of toolmakers, machinists and tool room machine operators Monday night, increases the toolmakers' job rates and guarantees a five cent increase every six months until a worker reaches the job rate which is the top of the range in his classification.

Toolmakers voted unanimously to support the machinists (machine repair) and tool room machine operators in their negotiations for raises.

A sub-committee consisting of Lawrence Di Lallo, Bldg. 53; Fred Pacelli, Bldg. 101, and James Morrett, Bldg. 68 was elected from the machinists' committee to go to New York City on the machinists' case. The case has now reached the national level.

The new toolmakers' job rates are: Class A, \$1,635; Class B, \$1,485 and Class C, \$1,335. Workers now receiving \$1,635 will be increased to \$1,685. The job rate for leaders was raised to \$1,735.

Raises are retroactive to the beginning of the payroll weeks of Jan. 2 and 3.

The toolmakers were represented at a meeting in New York on their case last week by a subcommittee, Michael Tedisco, Bldg. 17; Edward Wallingford, Bldg. 60, and Anthony Esposito, Bldg. 53, and by Business Agent Leo Jandreau. The company offer was made at that meeting.

Addresses GE Engineers

Business Agent Leo Jandreau of Local 301 spoke on "Problems in Union Operation" at a meeting of the Schenectady GE Engineers Association Monday at the YWCA.

Union Broadcast

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

Senate Group to Fight Anti-Labor Proposals

Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, reports that a progressive pro-labor bloc in the Senate will fight against Senators Ball and Taft and their anti-labor bills.

Senator Wagner of New York is an active member of the bloc. Senator Murray (Montana) is acting as chairman and Senator Pepper (Florida) is secretary. Efforts are under way to form a similar group in the House of Representatives. Marcantonio (New York) is a leader in organizing this House group.

"Already, the Senate group has held several meetings, discussed policies and planned their action," Nixon said. "The group is holding meetings with the leadership of labor, AFL, CIO and Railroad unions."

CIO leaders have explained their positions on various anti-labor proposals to the Senate bloc and made suggestions for the approaching fight.

"The Senators originally asked all branches of labor to sit together with them at such a meeting," Nixon reported.

The AFL refused to participate in joint discussions. This was a flagrant act of disunity on the part of the old-line AFL leadership here in Washington. Certainly it does not reflect the wishes of the AFL rank and file.

Nixon urged that UE locals help build AFL-CIO—Railroad labor unity in their own communities on legislation.

Committeemen's Meeting

The next monthly meeting of Local 301 committeemen will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at the union hall.

301 Adopts Greek Child

A Greek child will be supported for two months in Greece through a \$50 donation voted recently by the Local 301 Executive Board. The money will be cleared through the American Relief for Greek Democracy.

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Government Case Against GE Goes to Trial On Charge of Conspiring with Nazi Firm

The General Electric Co. and Carboly, its subsidiary, are now on trial before Federal Judge John C. Knox in New York City on the charge of having conspired with the Nazi munitions firm Krupp to control the production and sale of tungsten carbide, a hard metal composition used in the production of machine tools.

Officials of the company indicted by the U. S. government, including GE Vice President Zay Jeffries, are in the courtroom. The head of the Krupp trust is not present. He is reported held as a war criminal in Germany and the government claimed inability to serve him with the papers in the case.

Facts on Pension

Pension payments to workers retiring under the new pension plan within the next few years will be just about the same as they would have been under the old plan. The principal gain for these pensioners under the new plan is the fact that previously the pension ended with death, while under the new plan the widow or other beneficiary may receive the pension up to five years after the date of retirement.

These facts were brought out in a meeting on the question between the union's assistants to the business agent and Charles Marcy, supervisor of personnel, last Friday. They are printed here because many members appear to have the wrong impression that they may retire now with substantially higher pensions than they would have received under the old plan.

In any event, it is very advisable to double-check the amount of pension you will receive before you apply for retirement.

The effect of the new plan on the amount of pension will be felt more as the earnings credited since Sept. 1, 1946 begin to pile up. At present, pensions under the new plan are based almost entirely on earnings before Sept. 1, 1946. The amount is likely to be very slightly larger than under the old plan. Under either plan, the approximate amount to be collected in Social Security is deducted from past service pension credits after you reach 65. Under either plan that amount is paid you until you reach 65. The method of payment before 65 and deduction after 65 is different under the old and new plan, but the result is largely the same.

One advantage of the new plan is that a man with short service, retiring before 65, is guaranteed at least \$30 a month until he reaches 65. This was not true under the old plan for workers with short service, service not long enough to cover this amount.

A minimum pension of \$100 a month is one of the UE's national contract proposals.

The government's criminal indictment against the defendants charges that their conspiracy, which ran from November, 1928 to August, 1940, boosted the price of tungsten carbide from \$48 to \$453 a pound.

The indictment against GE was prepared in 1941, but the trial was held up till now. It charges that the fixing of the price at \$453 a pound "had the effect of discouraging and limiting sales of hard metal compositions to small manufacturers in the United States." Tungsten carbide was of great importance to industries engaged in manufacturing national defense equipment.

Huge Price Boost

Opposes Wagner Act

Zay Jeffries, indicted GE vice-president, made a speech last October in which accused union leaders of having "un-American objectives". He appealed for the crippling of the Wagner Act and opposed "high wages" for labor. Schenectady newspapers gave generous space to his speech.

Statewide UE Conference Planned on Legislation

Plans for a statewide UE legislative conference in Albany during February were made at the UE District 3 Council meeting recently at Rochester. Leo Jandreau, district 3 president, will consult with James McLeish, District 4 president, on the time and program.

Local 301 representatives at Rochester, in addition to Brother Jandreau, were President Andrew Peterson, William Kelly, William Mastriani and Roy Lash.

Charles Rivers, UE international representative, was transferred to the district staff as executive secretary to service the locals. Edward Landy, district executive secretary, was made an international representative to concentrate on organizing. He had already been active in organizing work, including the Buffalo Westinghouse drive.

Strike Talk Spreads In Teachers' Groups

Teachers in Schenectady and throughout New York State are making it plain to Governor Dewey and the Legislature that their demands for decent pay are not silenced by the \$300 temporary wage increase bill passed last week.

Delegates from 14 locals of the Empire State Federation of Teachers, AFI, will meet at the Van Curler Hotel Saturday to vote on a proposal to abandon their no-strike policy. The Schenectady local was to vote Tuesday night on the question (after this week's issue of EU News went to press).

Questionnaire on Strike

The Schenectady Teachers Association has circulated a questionnaire to teachers asking their reaction to the possibility of a strike. This group is part of the New York State Teachers Association, whose leadership has emphasized it is not a union.

State Association leaders, including Arvie Eldred, executive secretary, have a full-sized revolt on their hands now against the do-nothing policy of the association. It's reported that Mr. Eldred would be glad to settle for the Dewey increase, but the teachers won't let him. Even as far north as the Canadian border small groups of teachers are meeting to talk strike.

In New York City the CIO Teachers Union, AFL locals and non-union groups have united in a Teachers Salary Conference to press their pay demands. The Conference has warned Dewey that if permanent salary increases aren't obtained this session a strike poll will be considered.

Bill Is Tricky

The \$300 temporary increase bill sponsored by Dewey is deceiving, because it doesn't mean that every teacher gets \$300. The bill gives every locality \$300 per teacher, but the community doesn't have to pass the money on to a teacher unless the teacher didn't get a raise of that amount since June 30, 1946.

For instance, the Schenectady Board of Education hasn't decided yet how many teachers will be given this state money.

Board Favors Isolation Hospital

The Local 301 Executive Board went on record recently as favoring the maintenance of the Isolation Hospital in Schenectady. Plans had been made for abandoning the operation of the hospital.

Toolmakers and Machinists Meet on Wages



Section of the meeting of toolmakers, machinists and tool room machine operators at 301 Hall, Jan. 20. Hundreds of workers appeared at the union hall that afternoon to hear reports on negotiations for higher wages. See page 1 for later developments in the wage cases.

\$15 Weekly Increase For Local Printers

Union typesetters employed in Schenectady job print shops will receive an increase of \$15 a week, or 37 1/2 cents an hour, effective Feb. 1.

The newly negotiated agreement was ratified by the membership of Typographical Union Local 167 Saturday. It raises weekly pay from \$60 to \$75 for a 40-hour week.

The six paid holidays, already in the old contract, are continued in the new agreement. George Kerl is president of the local.

301 Dance

Final plans for the dance which Local 301 will stage Feb. 7 at Turner Hall, 863 Albany St., for the benefit of the March-of-Dimes drive will be made at a meeting of the Activities Committee at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, in Room 2B, 301 Hall.

The annual field-day of Local 301 will be June 29, the committee has announced.

What's the Limit?

The GE seven cubic foot de luxe refrigerator sold at retail in December for approximately \$235. The retail price at present is quoted as \$262.75. But if you put in your order now, your name has to go on a waiting list and there is no guarantee that the price won't jump again before the refrigerator is delivered.

Here's New Example Of GE Double-Talk

GE got out a special report to its stockholders last week, on the subject of "labor" legislation. The report said GE wanted no "reprisal" or "retaliation" against unions, it just wants to restore "balance in industrial relationships."

Does GE refer to "balance" as the ability to use injunctions and Philadelphia police to beat up strikers? Or is it the right of GE to violate the contract daily by refusing to settle grievances as provided by the contract, and then holler to high heaven if a few workers decide too much is too much and stop work for a half-hour?

The same GE report protested that GE was interested in the protection of three "beneficiaries", namely the "stockholders, employees, and the general public." Presumably this means profits above even the usual thirteen percent, the record prices which Big Business is charging the public, and wages dropping steadily because of the cost of living.

The report complained of the danger of "profits siphoned off into higher wages," which would cut purchasing power. You are welcome to dope that line out for yourself. GE is operating at a particularly high rate of profit today. And GE workers have the idea that their purchasing power is cut by low wages, not by raises.

Speaks at Rotary Meeting

Milo Lathrop, UE District 8 legislative representative, spoke to the Schoharie Rotary Club Tuesday at Schoharie on common interests of farmers, workers and business men.