

MR. GINN ATTACKS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
by Paul Hacko

Unemployment benefits paid to strikers, high executives' personal taxes, and the high cost of operations (which he blamed for plants leaving the State) were the chief complaints of W.S. Ginn, Vice-President of GE, as he addressed the recent 45th Annual Meeting of Associated Industries of New York State.

This "double talk" by GE is nothing new. Instead of living in the 20th Century, GE wants to go back to the "yellow-dog contract days"... While GE claims "Progress is our most important product", their programs affecting employees, communities and social economic progress are brazenly reactionary!

GE would have the people believe that the community comes first and not the profits they have been making in the past 20 years.

BUT LET THAT PROFIT DECREASE and the people will find out just how much GE is ready to sacrifice for the community. GE is ready to give its heart to any community and then withdraw it just as quickly if the chosen community tries to recover too much of what they take out of it.

Let's take a look at the record of GE's profits and its poorly paid executives... GE profits showed a record high of \$20 million a month during the 2nd quarter of 1959 after taxes. Profits after taxes and all other expenses were \$64 million for a 3 month period. Between 1955 and 1958, GE raised prices better than 16.5%.

While Ginn and GE moan and groan about high taxes and unemployment benefits they mention nothing about stock options or high corporate profits.

The stock option is a plan under which a company grants permission to an executive to buy a certain number of shares at a set price and usually allows him ten years in which to exercise the option. Whenever he buys the stock regardless of how high the market value of the stock may be, he pays only the price specified in the option.

For instance, Ralph Cordiner, president of GE, was given the privilege of buying stock selling on the market for \$60 a share at an option price of \$23.75. He reaped a profit of \$242,000 before taxes.

At the same time that GE executives were using their options to get stock at bargain prices the company was trying to get the workers to pass up a pay raise in favor of a savings plan in 1958.

Steel, Ford, Goodyear and others follow the same pattern.

GE AND GINN FAIL TO MENTION that 259 companies' overall increase in profits

was 37.3%, and in the first quarter of 1959, the year to year spurt, was 54%. U.S. Steel earned \$135,000,000 in 1958 compared to 255 million in 1959 in the first half.

Ginn and GE fail to mention that the abuse of corporate powers contributed to the great depression of the thirties and it will contribute to costly social and economic dislocations in the future unless the American people remain interested, informed, active in unions and political affairs, and determined to protect and extend this country's earlier victories over executive greed and corporate responsibility.

GE and Ginn fail to mention that 72 cents out of every dollar paid out in taxes goes for armaments and wars.

GE FAILS TO STATE that a 10 billion dollar reduction in arms' expenditure would create huge purchasing power for the consumer. U.S. News Week reports that if this were done, all federal taxes would be eliminated for the average family.

MR. GINN FAILS TO MENTION THAT GE was one of the biggest price gougers on military equipment; that they sold to the government at the expense of the tax payer. In fact, they were indicted and found guilty on many occasions.

While GE and Ginn and other corporations attack and seek repressive measures against bona fide labor unions, attack all social gains, made by unions and liberal progressive politicians, not a single corporation or executive has offered a plan to solve unemployment. There should be a Labor Board to regulate hours in various industries to prevent further layoff and guarantee full employment. This Board should also fix minimum wages and eliminate geographical differences in wage scales.

GE and Ginn say employers should not be placed in a position to finance strikes, but I say that as long as labor alone pays the penalty for unemployment and strikes, the employer will do nothing to cure unemployment and strikes. Unemployment and strikes are caused by industry.

In conclusion, I say that labor and labor unions are under the greatest planned attacks in history of the labor movement. This attack has been carefully planned. It is a concerted action conceived and planned far ahead by the greedy corporation. It is time the working men and women took a stand against GE in Schenectady and those who place machines and profits above labor and classify labor as human debris and discard it as human wreckage.

The strike is your sacred weapon to bring labor into its rightful place, to safeguard your union, your contract, and save all the gains you have made through years of blood, sweat and tears.

BE PREPARED FOR 1960!

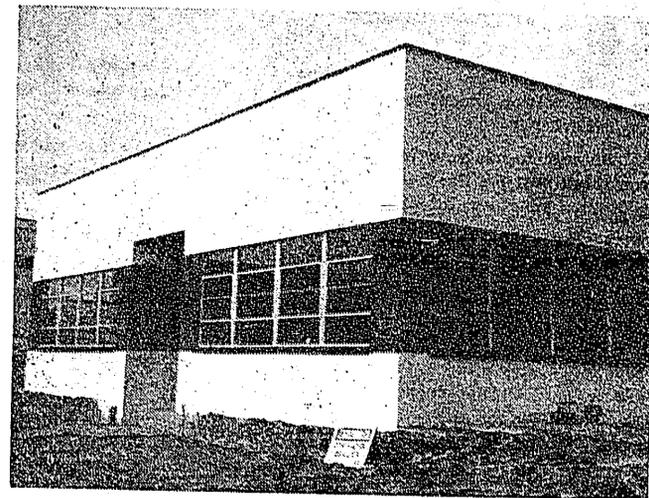
BE SURE TO "VOTE" -- ELECTION DAY -- NOV. 3RD!

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE AFL-CIO

Vol. 6 — No. 12 The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y. October 30, 1959

Members Rally Behind Steelworkers, Donate \$3,777.65



Members of Local 301, IUE, rallied behind the hard-pressed Steelworkers and their families in their fight for survival against the giant steel industry.

The latest total contributed by our membership at the date of this writing soared to \$3,777.65. This is a great tribute to the working men and women in the General Electric Plant in Schenectady whose sympathies are with the Steelworkers and their wives and children. This money will be used to furnish food, milk, help defray rents, doctor bills, and provide clothing to those in dire need.

UNION MEMBERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY are reaching into their pockets and donating at least one hour's pay per month to this crusade. They realize that if the Steelworkers are forced to succumb to the outrageous demands of the steel industry... the future of the labor movement will be in serious danger.

Never before has the concentrated moral and financial support of the entire AFL-CIO been rallied together in such a united effort.

The membership of Local 301 is to be commended for their solid moral and financial support!

"Man in the Shop"

WSNY — DIAL 1240

with

Don Weeks and Bill Duffy

NEWS, SPORTS, MUSIC AND

PERSONAL NEWS AND INTERVIEWS

Mon.-Fri. 6:00-7:00 A.M.

Complete Move to New Union Bldg.

A long awaited dream, to have a new beautiful Union Office Building all our own, finally became a reality last week.

The new building is located on Erie Blvd. and adjoins our Union Auditorium. The dimensions are 50' x 100' and provide much needed office space and a conference room.

Badly Needed

The new quarters furnish more modern facilities which our Executive Board and Committees so badly needed in order to better service the membership. Plans are being made to continue our educational classes in the near future in the more modern quarters. Our old quarters were in-

adequate to furnish a really concrete course.

The new building will also advertise to the Community, by our good deeds, that Unions are helpful and well worthwhile organizations. In the long run, we should be able to remove the black-eye which some people have given to labor and set a shining example of what labor really means in our Community through our Community Services, COPE, and other committees.

The staff of "Local 301 News" wishes our Officers and the Membership the best of luck in their new undertaking.

**BE SURE TO
VOTE!**

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301, REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY GE WORKERS

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Halloween Dance At Union Hall

All spooks, goblins, witches, and what-have-you are cordially invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Halloween Dance at the IUE Auditorium, 121 Erie Blvd., Saturday, October 31st, at 8:30 P.M.

The dance is sponsored jointly by the Sch'dy Musician's Local 85, The Downtown Merchant's Bureau, and Local 301. Music will be furnished by Frankie Glen and his boys.

The dance is absolutely free and children of all ages are invited (with or without costumes). Awards will be presented for dancing.

We believe that if more such events were undertaken, there would be a sharp decline in the rate of delinquency among our younger people.

BE SURE TO COME AND ENJOY THE FUN!

VOTE



Editorial:

ONCE A YEAR . . . YOU'RE A MILLIONAIRE

The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November is the most important day in the year . . . Election Day.

That is the day when every man and woman who is registered can exercise the greatest power he has . . . THE RIGHT TO VOTE and pick candidates of his own choosing to represent him.

That is the time for you to look over the record of the candidates running for office and to decide upon the one who will work best in your behalf.

It is the time to oust those who by their records have been detrimental to the labor movement and your social and economic security . . .

Whether you are a factory worker, a doctor, a lawyer, a banker or a corporation executive YOUR VOTE COUNTS just as much as any other . . .

Be sure to use your precious right and vote for the man whom you think best for the job . . . Vote for the man whom you believe will serve your best interest . . . BUT VOTE!

TODAY (NOV. 3RD) YOU ARE A MILLIONAIRE!

FARMING OUT OF WORK

There have been numerous reports of supervisors in various departments attempting to "farm out" work. In many cases these jobs are assigned to "non-union" shops such as a Machine and Tool Company in Rochester.

While there is a lack-of-work in the GE Plant in Schenectady and at the time of a general movement here to encourage new industry to move into this area, we strongly oppose such action on the part of the Company.

Let's cut out the double-talk!

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT . . .

. . . of "farming out" work, it has been brought to our attention that the GE News is printed in Albany . . . Why not keep that work in Schenectady and thus keep more work in our own Community?

EMPLOYEES GIVE \$275,000 TO COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

Employees of the General Electric Company gave their "fair share" to the Community Chest Fund by contributing \$275,000. Presentation of this gift was made last week by D. E. Lemon, Chairman of the CSF Board of Administrators, at Shaughnessy Hall. Added to the Company's

gift of \$95,000, the huge total of \$370,000 has been pledged by both the Employees and the Company. In making the pledge, Lemon said that, "On the basis of our current fund membership the \$275,000 signifies an 11.5% increase per member."

CIO-AFL Cope Recommendations

Listed below is the position taken by the State AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education on all nine proposed constitutional amendments:

- 1. YES. Sets up Department of Motor Vehicles.
2. YES. Permits road through forest reserve.
3. POSITION NOT TAKEN (see below).
4. YES. New York City School Bond issue.
5. NO. Allows elimination of primaries under new rules.
6. YES. Permits lease, transfer to U.S. Govt. of barge canals.
7. YES. Allows increasing of fire, police pensions. Permissive.
8. NO. Would adopt federal income tax rulings for state tax.
9. YES. Allows joint facility building with joint taxation.

Here are the details:

1. Today there is no full Department of Motor Vehicles. For the Commissioner to do a better job, C.O.P.E. believes a full-fledged department will help. Therefore we urge a "yes" vote.

2. This will permit use of not more than 300 acres out of 2,000,000 in the state forest to build part of the Northway to Canada, thus saving many millions in construction costs needed if another route is used.

3. This would disqualify a public official from holding public office or employment for five years if he refused to testify before a grand jury concerning his conduct in office and to sign a waiver of immunity against prosecution. C.O.P.E. took no position on this amendment. However, the Committee noted that this amendment would have the effect of whitening away at the right, under the federal constitution, of a citizen not to be required to be a witness against himself.

4. This concerns the school bond issue on which your State C.O.P.E. urges a "yes" vote.

5. This would permit the legislature to set standards to provide that primary elections be held only where there is a contest for a public or party office. C.O.P.E. recommends a "no" vote. This amendment would eliminate the

possibility of write-in votes and contains the danger that the legislature might adopt such rules as to hamper persons from running for public or party office.

6. The state's barge canals could be leased or transferred to the federal government so they could be integrated with other inland waterways.

7. This would make it possible, but not mandatory, for police and fire department pensions to be increased for members already retired, or widows of retired members.

8. This would allow taxpayers to use federal computations, rules and interpretations in making out state income tax returns. The State AFL-CIO opposed this on the ground that the numerous federal loopholes available to those in the upper income brackets would be usable in computing the state income tax. This would mean less taxes for those most able to pay and more taxes for those least able to pay. Therefore State C.O.P.E. urges a "no" vote.

9. This allows municipalities and school districts to contract indebtedness and levy taxes for facilities to be built and used jointly. This is a reasonable proposal and C.O.P.E. urges a "yes" vote.

GUTS Holds First Meeting at Linton

GUTS, Inc. got off the ground last Wednesday evening at Linton High School with a mass meeting of the County's business and professional men.

GUTS stands for "Gear Up for Tomorrow in Schenectady"—a community-wide organization set up to bring in a "minimum of 10,000 new jobs to Schenectady by the end of 1962.

The mass meeting was chaired by Lew B. Harris who explained the program to the group.

The Union's position on this program is that we will go along with any plan to improve conditions in Schenectady and the surrounding area. We of local 301 will continue to work with GUTS, Inc. as long as there is as much effort put into keeping and expanding our present industries as there is in attracting new industries. We feel that the 10,000 jobs that GUTS, Inc. wants to bring into Schenectady should be above the 30,000 employment level that GE has promised.

If GE and others set the pace, we're sure that this will encourage new business to come into town.

Select Delegates For District State Conv.

Elections were held at the last Membership Meeting to select delegates to represent our Local at the coming District #3, and State AFL-CIO Conventions. The names of the delegates chosen are:

District #3 Convention, Oct. 30, 31, 1959, at Rochester, N. Y.: 2nd Shift—Dave Gunn; 1st and 3rd, Larry Gebro, Bill Mastrianni, Phil Cognetta.

STATE AFL-CIO Convention, Nov. 16, 17, and 18, 1959, at Buffalo: 2nd Shift, Joe Alois; 1st and 3rd, Leo Jandreau, John Shambo.

"LABOR LOOKS AT THE NEWS"

Dial 1240 — WSNY

Sponsored by Local 301, IUE Every Sat. 6:45-7:00 P.M.