

Message to Kearney - Vote for OPA

Union members from Schenectady and Gloversville waiting for Congressman Bernard W. Kearney at his mother's home with "Save Price Control" telegram. When he didn't appear they decided to keep returning till they see him. Members of the delegation with the telegram for Kearney are: seated, Mrs. Marguerite Hamilton, secretary of the Fulton County ALP Club; and Bob Northrop, chairman of the veterans committees of the Capital District CIO Council and of Local 2051, USA; standing, left to right, Sam De Cesare, Local 301; Mrs. Alma De Cesare, Local 301; Charles Hildreth, Fur and Leather Workers, general chairman of the United Labor Unions of Fulton County; Joseph Dominelli, chairman of Local 301 veterans' Committee, and John Marino, Layers-Off Union, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Gloversville.



Chief Steward Warns Committeemen On Company Cost-Cutting Campaign

The company drive to cut costs makes it necessary for committeemen to do a better job now than ever, Chief Steward Bill Mastriani said today.

One danger signal is the dismissal of service help, he pointed out. "Porters are being eliminated in various groups," he said.

"That means that the production workers in many cases will have to work faster to make up for the work that used to be done by the porters."

Mastriani said that whenever this happens the union representatives must point out to GE that prices for piece work are established with the agreement and understanding that certain service help is available.

"When this service help is removed," he said, "it automatically makes a change in working conditions and makes the prices too low."

He said representatives should fight for adjustments in piece work prices or insist that the service help remain in the department.

Committeemen must check on all layoffs for lack of work to be sure the con-

tract seniority provisions are observed, he warned.

During a recent meeting with management, a business agent of the union learned of several seniority violations. Employees were laid off although they had as much as a year's service more than other workers doing similar jobs under the same foremen.

GE BOOSTS DIVIDENDS

Remember how worried the General Electric was about its poor stockholders, all during the deadlocked wage talks that ended in the strike?

Well, now it seems the worry was a bit premature. President Charles E. Wilson of GE has announced an 11 per cent increase in dividends.

TUNE IN

Local 301 is on the air
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
7:15 P. M. - WSNY
1240 on your dial

Take Oath of Office As UE Committeemen

Committeemen sworn in at the Local 301 committeemen's meeting Tuesday night were:

Patsy J. De Siena	Bldg. 61
Stanley Fisher	Bldg. 16
Irene Ransom	Bldg. 23 G. O.
Royal Irish	Bldg. 273
Vernon J. Millington	Bldg. 64
Lucy Swatling	Bldg. 53
Anna Walendziak	Off. Service
Ica Suprunowicz	Off. Service
John Keeler	Bldg. 107
Larry Gebo	Bldg. 53
George Pulido	Bldg. 50
Alfred Collette	Bldg. 10
William Mastriani	Bldg. 73A
Lee Thomas	Bldg. 73
Robert Leonard	Bldg. 93
John L. Rocco	Bldg. 50
F. M. Gee	Bldg. 107
Clara De Noyer	Bldg. 269
Leland Surdam	CAP
C. J. DiGirolamo	Bldg. 69
Howard Cronin	Bldg. 73
Peter Nowicki	Bldg. 40
Norman Pink	Bldg. 37

10,000 Demand Kearney Help Save Price Control

More than 10,000 signers have placed their names on petitions and on a mammoth telegram addressed to Congressman Bernard W. Kearney and calling on him to "act and vote for price control."

A delegation of GE and ALCO workers attempted to deliver the telegram to Kearney at his home in Gloversville. The Congressman could not be found, although Gloversville residents assured the delegates that he was in town. They will try again.

Meanwhile, the Schenectady Union-Star warned Kearney that he was playing with political dynamite by voting against price control. Kearney represents Schenectady in the lower house of Congress.

WORKERS INJURED

Several accidents happened lately in Bldg. 73. Fred Green, grinder, and Bill Herodes, spot-welder, suffered finger injuries. Frank Cevetteo, spot welder, injured his head.

If workers are in doubt about their rights under the Workmen's Compensation Act they should call at the union office.

Electrical Union News

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

May 16, 1946



Two Local 301 shop stewards, G. A. Mele, holding the anti-inflation poster, and C. W. Bourdeau, call on Mrs. Alice Cantore, proprietor of a delicatessen in McClellan St. She said she'd be glad to display the poster and to help the fight to save price control. Mele is chairman of the Food Panel of the Schenectady Price Control Board.

Union Men Aid Anti-Inflation Campaign, Visit Grocers, Place Posters in Stores

You can thank a Local 301 shop steward, G. A. Mele, and his union assistants for the fact that anti-inflation posters are popping up in food stores throughout the city of Schenectady. It's nothing new for Mele to give long hours to price control work. He represented Local 301 for three years on the city Rationing and Price Control Board. When rationing stopped last winter the remaining Price Control Board was separated into various panels and Mele was named head of the Food Panel.

With volunteer workers, he has checked retail stores for OPA violations, settled many of the cases with the store managers and turned tough cases over to the district OPA office at Albany.

His chief helpers in Local 301 right now are C. W. Bourdeau, also a member of the Food Panel, who is concentrating on the poster job; Allen Townsend, Nunzi Lettiere and Frank Varone.

They work two or three hours a night a couple of times a week to help see price ceilings are observed.

They are all helping now with the distribution of posters and "Save Price Control" petitions.

Union Votes On \$1.50 Dues Tuesday Night

A proposal to raise Local 301 dues to \$1.50 a month will be voted on at a special meeting of the entire membership and committeemen at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday, May 21, at union hall.

Shop committeemen have voted unanimously in favor of the dues increase, on the grounds that the present dollar dues are a hangover from the "horse and buggy" period of the union and are completely out-of-step with the needs of the present day.

In order to get the fullest and most democratic expression of opinion, committeemen have circulated petitions among their shop members on the dues raise. The petitions, already widely signed, authorize committeemen to cast proxy votes in favor of the increase.

Meetings of the industrial control and the porcelain departments Monday night unanimously endorsed the \$1.50 dues.

Originally the proposal was recommended by the Executive Board, in consultation with the union auditors, in connection with preparing the new union budget. The Constitution Committee unanimously approved the Board's recommendation.

The membership meeting Tuesday also will elect five UE district 3 delegates and 17 delegates to the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO.

District 3 Meets

Organizing problems, PAC, and the two unsettled strikes in the district were topics discussed last weekend at the meeting of UE District 3 at Rochester.

The UE strikes are at Buffalo Bolt Corp., Buffalo, and Spalding Fibre Co., Tonawanda.

\$5,000 for Strikers

Members of Local 301 gave over \$5,000 to the Westinghouse strikers.

This included \$3,000 donated from the union treasury and \$2,000 collected from the individual members.

Union Calendar

Thursday, May 16 (tonight)—7:30 p.m.—Meeting for all crane operators in the plant at union hall.

Sunday, May 19—10 a.m.—Mail truck drivers and extras, union hall.

Tuesday, May 21—7:30 p.m.—Special membership and committeemen's meeting. Also at night, officer workers organizing committee.

Wednesday, May 22 — Capitol District CIO Council Meeting.

Hundreds of Local 301 committeemen as well as the entire Executive Board are also distributing petitions.

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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Office Workers Drive Attracts GE Veterans

Union application cards have been received from 53 World War II veterans in GE office jobs during the past two weeks activities of the Office Workers Organizing Committee.

As he signed up, one veteran said to Sadie Iovinella, an organizer, "I had a boy's job when I left for the service. I'm back now after three years and the best GE would do for me was to give me back the boy's job. I think I'm entitled to a better deal."

George Katz, chairman of the Committee reported that the practices followed by the GE after the strike have resulted in "more and more office workers signing application cards every day."

A recent meeting of the Committee also heard a report from Jerry Steinberg, national organizer, and a summary of contract negotiations between UE and GE.

Expects Better Luck With GE Next Week

The Westinghouse strike victory should speed up GE contract negotiations when they are resumed next Tuesday, Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, predicted today.

News of the strike settlement came to the negotiators late last week at the end of several days' deadlocked sessions.

No progress had been made last week, according to Jandreau. In fact the company had shifted its position on several issues which the union thought were agreed on. There were no sessions this week.

"However, it ought to be a different story next week," Jandreau said. "The national UE officers are now free to turn all their attention to our negotiations. The union victory at Westinghouse cannot help having a favorable effect on the sessions."

Westinghouse Strike Settlement Approved, Brings 18 Cent Raise and Union Security

Every UE Westinghouse local in the country has now approved the terms settling the Westinghouse strike. More than 75,000 workers were on strike for 118 days to protect wages, working conditions and union security from the attack of the giant Westinghouse Electric Corp.

UE leaders are unanimous in calling the settlement and contract a great victory.

The strike victory includes a pay raise of 18 cents an hour. In addition the company will pay another cent an hour into a fund to be used to narrow down unfair wage differences between men and women workers.

At first Westinghouse refused even to discuss wage increases. After nine weeks of strike, the company made its first offer. It proposed giving no raise at all to 10,000 lamp workers and giving 9.7 cents an hour increase to the other workers.

It was the refusal of the company to discuss this ultimatum with UE that forced U. S. mediators assigned to the case to withdraw.

Here are other important points about the settlement according to James J. Matles, UE director of organization.

"Incentive Workers: The Company's most intensive drive against the workers came when Westinghouse demanded the right to wipe out any guarantees of earnings to incentive workers as the first step towards wage rate cutting and speed up of work.

"Under terms of the new agreement the Union won all necessary safeguards that will protect incentive earnings of workers and will prevent speed-up and wage rate cuts. Some 55% of employees are incentive workers.

"Women workers: The Company sought to eliminate an old War Labor Board case which urged ending of "exploitation" of women workers. The Company sought to remove from the contract the section that demands that "Women placed on men's jobs shall receive men's rates of pay."

"Under terms of the new agreement, no commitment was made for the surrendering of the War Labor Board case. The Union kept a clause protecting principle of 'equal pay'. In addition, an important step was taken to equalize wages by setting up a company-financed fund for narrowing differentials between men's and women's wage rates.

"Seniority: Westinghouse demanded the abolition of the Union's seniority

clause in the contract and the substitution of a clause which would have given the Company a free hand with respect to layoffs, rehiring, firings and transfers, etc.

"Under terms of the new agreement, the Union retained its former clause safeguarding seniority rights for all employees.

"Vacations: Westinghouse demanded that vacation payments be cut.

"Under terms of the new agreement, the Union safeguarded vacation pay for Westinghouse workers.

"Lamp Workers: Westinghouse excluded 10,000 lamp workers both hourly and salaried, from even the 9.7 cent offer made to its other employees.

"Under terms of the new agreement, lamp workers will receive the general wage increase and benefits from the adjustments made in inventive earnings and day-workers' bonus.

"Salaried Employees: The Company sought to eliminate objective standards for merit increases won by UE-CIO after extended War Labor Board hearings.

"Under terms of the new agreement, salaried employees receive same benefits won by the production workers.

"Day Workers' Bonus: The Company demanded that the day workers' bonus, (a payment made to workers who do not receive direct incentive pay) be cut in half.

"Under terms of the new agreement, in place of a fluctuating day workers' bonus, day workers will receive a guaranteed fixed amount of the bonus, to be included in their base rates. This fixed amount will represent between 42 and 75 per cent of the day workers' bonus paid in December, 1945.

"Maintenance of Membership: Westinghouse demanded the right to interfere with the internal affairs of the Union by insisting that local unions give up the right to determine whether a member is in good standing for the purpose of applying the maintenance of membership clause."

"Under terms of the new agreement, the maintenance of membership clause is retained without weakening amendments."

Why the \$1.50 Dues Are Necessary

The Local 301 business office has presented the following breakdown and brief explanation of how your union dues are used.

PER CAPITA TAX	\$.58
National UE	.40
District 3, UE	.10
N. Y. State CIO Council	.01½
Capital District CIO Council	.01½
	.53
LOST TIME	.35
CONFERENCES	.05
WAGES	.25
NEWSPAPER — E.U. NEWS	.10
RENT, LIGHT, HEAT, TELEPHONE	.03
STATIONERY AND SUPPLIES	.04
DEFENSE FUND (to be put in reserve)	.10
PUBLIC RELATIONS	.05
TOTAL	\$1.50

BE ON SAFE SIDE, REGISTER IN JUNE

Central registration for the 1946 elections will start June 1 at the Schenectady Board of Elections, County Courthouse, and in all other counties.

You can register from June 1 to Oct. 1 instead of waiting for the four special days in October.

The CIO Political Action Committee has urged all union members to register at the first opportunity instead of running the risk of being ill or out of town in October.

You can't vote if you don't register,—except in rural communities.

Turnbull Favors Increase in Dues

The first president of Local 301, William Turnbull, has issued a statement in favor of raising the union dues to \$1.50 a month to meet present-day problems and costs.

He pointed out that the dollar dues were all right back in 1936, but are impossibly low for 1946.

"I have just returned to Schenectady," he said, "after an absence of three years in California. On my first visit to union headquarters I found the boys discussing the question of whether the monthly dues should be raised from one dollar to \$1.50.

"As one of the original organizers of Local 301, I remember how we wrangled over this problem of dues in the early days and how, after trying several experiments, the members realized that no successful union could be run on less than a dollar a month.

"That was back in 1936 when men's wages were as low as 40 cents an hour and most women's wages were less than that.

"Would any union member like to try to live today on the wages he got in 1936? I think not. Yet your union is doing just that. Your wages have increased but your dues are the same.

"If you attend your monthly meetings, you have heard the financial reports. This is your union. If there is anything regarding the dues you don't understand, either ask your committeeman or go down to headquarters and talk it over with your officers.

"I am sure that when you consider the facts, you will agree with me that no successful union can be run today on less than one and a half dollars a month."

Red Cross Praises Local Labor Help

The National CIO office passed along to Local 301 a letter of praise from the American Red Cross for the Schenectady labor record in the recent Red Cross fund drive.

Signed by Henry J. Gromko, regional Red Cross director, the letter said:

"I believe that an outstanding example of union support was demonstrated in the Schenectady County campaign where, although employees had been out of work for so long, they underwrote their division quota and more than made good on it."

TRUCK DRIVERS MEET SUNDAY

A meeting has been called for all mail truck drivers and extras of the plant at union headquarters at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 19. The Local 301 office said the session "is of vital importance to all people in this group."

Note—the meeting will start promptly to leave the afternoon free.

New Veterans Group Plans State Meeting

A group of 50 New York state members of the newly formed United Negro and Allied Veterans of America met recently in New York City and laid plans for a state veterans' conference June 8 and 9 at 15 West 126th St., New York City.