

Jandreau Cheered At Armory Meeting As the Strikers Return To Their Jobs

Following upon the unanimous ratification of the 18 1/2-cent strike settlement agreement by a membership meeting of over 4,000 at the Armory last Saturday, the strikers are back at their jobs in the plant. About ninety percent were put back to work on Monday, and the others were being called in fast. It was expected that practically the entire force of striking production workers would have been called back by next Monday.

Ratification of the agreement came with a tremendous ovation for Business Agent Leo Jandreau. The other speakers, including President Andrew Peterson, Julius Emspak, national secretary-treasurer (see separate story and picture), Chief Steward William Mastriani, John Polak, executive board member, Keith W. Rockwell, business agent of Local 128 of the Steamfitters, AFL, and Lewis Benedict, president of Transport Workers' Local 169, were given vigorous applause.

The membership voted, on a spontaneous motion from the floor, to send Mastriani away on a three-weeks' vacation, but he declared:

"You can't get rid of me that easy. I want to do a job in the shop."

Jandreau asked the members to "pick ourselves up," and "begin the new phase of our work for the people now."

He listed three main jobs — completing organization of the workers under contract, organizing the office workers, and community and political action.

Excerpts from Jandreau's speech follow:

"In a few moments you men and women, and similar meetings of locals in the other 44 GE plants, will seal the victory you won through nine weeks of steadfast unity on the picket line, by voting to accept the agreement worked out Wednesday in New York.

"And without waiting for the agreement to take effect Monday morning, let us look to the job ahead of us.

"Our first job is to move into the plant the remarkable unity which GE workers showed while on strike. We have to see to it that all the

strikers are in fact returned without the slightest discrimination. We want to do this without friction, in peace and harmony. Undoubtedly there will be problems, there may be executives who refuse to take literally the no-discrimination agreement, and it will be our job to see that they live up to it. But it will also be our job not to be provoked, to continue to stand firm and to insist on settling all difficulties promptly in accordance with the contract and the strike settlement agreement.

"The important job is to translate the unity into organization. With this victory to our credit, it will be an easy job to enroll into the union every person covered by the contract. It will be our job to make an active union member of every member. I realize that there were some who did not do their full part in the strike. Let me say that the record of participation in this strike was very high. Our records show that a substantial majority of the strikers took an active part. It is natural that these active strikers will tend to be a bit resentful toward the few inactive ones who share equally in the material results of the victory. I plead with you to forget that resentment. We are all one. Those who worked hardest in the strike, who undertook the most arduous duties, will have the lifelong satisfaction of knowing they did a good job for their fellow-workers. It is those who were inactive who really lost. From here on out, we are all union members, with equal rights and duties. Let us all work together for our common aims, the betterment of working conditions for GE workers, and the wider welfare of the entire community and nation.

"Our next job is to organize the office workers, who basically were united with us in the strike even though not united organizationally. I believe most of them will now be ready to join us in a UE office workers' local. In view of the fact that so many of them are relatives of production workers, and that production workers have direct contact with thousands of office workers in the plant, it is our responsibility to

do the job of helping the office workers organize.

"And lastly, we approach our most important long-range task, taking our proper place in the community, discharging our responsibilities to the community. This union has, of course, long played an important part in the community. We built up quite a record of community activity in support of the war. But the strike has given us a much deeper understanding of our role in the community. It has shown to us and to the rest of the community that we are one in fact and in interest. The community gave its striking members support that was a major factor in the victory. We learned that unless the community speaks up through people's organizations, we run the constant danger of having public officials who do not speak for the people in fact.

"We have a job to do which is covered by such inclusive words as community action, political action. It includes helping the ALCO workers and the bus drivers get their just demands with a minimum of difficulty. It includes fighting for better schools, playgrounds, city services. It includes fighting for price control, against anti-democratic, anti-strike legislation. It includes fighting for world peace. We have made a serious start toward putting this work on a permanent basis by opening ward headquarters of this union, which may later serve as the basis for broad CIO and community political action work.

"The end of a tough fight brings an inevitable emotional letdown. We must pick ourselves up immediately, and go forward united, without stopping to rest. History moves fast these days. The enemies of the people do not wait. We begin the new phase of our work for the people now."

Machine Lead Cut

(Continued from Page 1)
The next job is to see that all the people in all the districts have at least as good an understanding of the situation as the voters in Homer's home district demonstrated in last Tuesday's election. It can be done.

Union Speeds Shift To Political Action

(Continued from Page 1)

we want. We must keep up our interest all the year round.

"We shall back men on their program, irrespective of party. If we get a movement of the people in every ward club in the city, we shall have people who are conscious of the issues.

"Talk about this to your neighbors. Have them come here to talk about any of their problems."

Peterson opened the meeting with the remark that "in the interest of the community, we must support candidates friendly to organized labor, regardless of party." "We are not waiting for the election to do the job. We are going to have headquarters in every ward."

Mastriani declared: "We have just finished one fight, we are now going into a new field. We are going to do a job."

International Representative Chas. Rivers pointed out that this was "probably the first time in the history of American labor that ward headquarters are opened months before an election." He urged immediate emphasis on mobilizing the neighbors for continuance of price control.

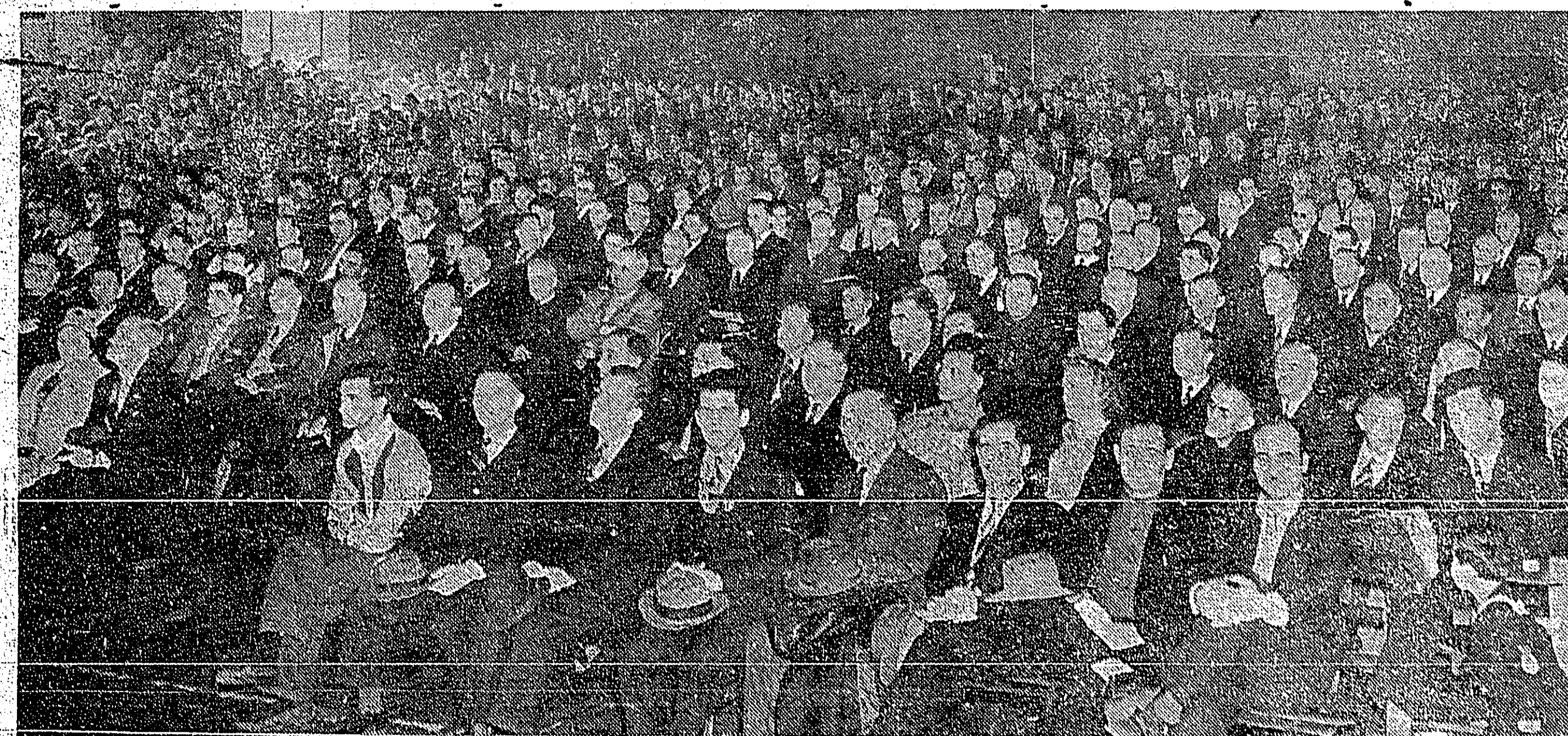
Milo Lathrop, educational director, suggested that by starting with a movement to enforce price ceilings in the neighborhood, the ward organization would make the practical start on a people's movement.

Joseph Dominelli, chairman of the veterans' committee, declared that in working for legislation favorable to the ex-servicemen, his committee had found that the CIO was the main reliance.

Victor Pasche, international field organizer, stressed the need of having the PAC work of ward clubs governed at all times by a program in the interest of the people, and urged that the program be discussed frequently in ward meetings.

Among others who spoke were Edward Wallingford, Local 301 executive board member, John Saccocio, committeeman and temporary chairman for the Tenth Ward, James Meany, and Joseph Krone.

Much of the floor discussion centered on price control to protect wages, and on the flaws in the unemployment insurance law, brought out by experience in the strike.



MORE THAN 4,000 MEMBERS, on the last day of the successful nine-week strike at GE, met in the Armory Saturday and unanimously cast their votes for approval of the agreement ending the strike. This meeting here is typical of the effective practical democracy in operation in the UE-CIO. There were such meetings of locals in 44 GE plants all over the United States Saturday to authorize the officers to accept the agreement and declare the strike over.

Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 11.

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

April 4, 1946

UE Prepares to Win New GE Contract

SHE WORE THAT SMILE ON THE PICKET LINE TOO



Marie Sweeney, inspector in Building 69, has turned her energy to signing up new union members now that picket duty has ended. Here she is with her latest batch of applications.

During the strike she brightened the picket line in her ski suit, day after day. She had to sell two war bonds, but when the 18 1/2 cent raise comes through she plans to replace them.

Old Agreement to Expire on July 1st

For the first time since the original contract with General Electric was signed nine years ago, UE will start negotiations for a complete new contract this month.

In the past all changes were made under a modification clause which permits either the union or the company to suggest changes on 30 days notice. The old agreement always held over until changes were agreed on and went into effect.

This year the company served termination notice. Between now and July 1, when the present contract will end, every subject covered by the present contract will have to be negotiated. New subjects not included in the old agreement will also be discussed.

May Arbitrate

The company has agreed to consider arbitrating questions on which negotiations become deadlocked. Union officials have urged the company to cooperate in having the negotiations proceed speedily and peacefully.

A membership meeting of Local 301 was scheduled this week to approve or amend the 1946 UE proposals. Its action would be taken too late for publication in this week's Electrical Union News.

Higher pay, union shop, equal pay for women, a guarantee against discrimination for race, color, creed or national origin, increased vacations, severance pay and other improvements will be asked.

Negotiation sessions with the GE management will start as soon as the union proposals are officially adopted by the UE locals in the 46 GE plants in the country. Leo Jandreau is a member of the national UE committee which drew up the contract recommendations. (Details of contract proposal on page 4)

CIO-PAC On the Move

The framework of labor's political home is now going up. Representatives of the CIO unions in Schenectady met at Local 301 headquarters last week and mapped plans for political action in the city and county.

The plan, which is now being discussed by each union, calls for establishing a political action committee in each ward and town. It is proposed that the chairmen and secretaries elected by the ward and town committees shall make up the County-wide Political Action Committee.

Political Action will not be confined to the CIO. The AFL will be invited to participate. And PAC will not be a purely union affair. All voters who agree with the aims of PAC will be welcome to participate on an equal basis with the union members. Union representatives are taking the first steps to set up the necessary organization. When things get under way, the union representatives will act as advisors — and they will take an active part in their own ward and town organizations.

It was emphasized at last week's meeting that the PAC clubs will be open to all voters, regardless of party. PAC will base itself on issues and candidates. Members of the Democratic, Republican and American Labor parties who agree on the issues, will work together to elect candidates pledged to represent the interests of the people.

Headquarters have already been opened by three ward PAC organizations in the city of Schenectady. They will dot the entire city and county in time to take active part in next November's vital state and local elections, union members are determined.

ORIGINAL TORN

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA, C.I.O.
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee
Dewey Brashcar Ray Flanigan
Milo Lathrop Fay Marvin
William Mastriani

Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. - Schenectady, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

Syracuse Speed-ups Warn Unorganized Office Employees

The GE campaign of speed-ups and layoffs among unorganized office workers in Syracuse has warned Schenectady office workers they need union organization to protect their jobs and their raises.

Now that the strike is won, organizing the office workers is one of the biggest and most urgent jobs of UE. Local 301 has pledged full cooperation of its officers, executive board and shop stewards to aid the Office Workers Organizing Committee.

Sadie Iovenella, an assistant to Leo Jandreau, and Jerry Steinberg, international field man who helped organize the Pittsfield GE workers, have been assigned to full time with the OWOC drive.

Right now the campaign is concentrating on production and factory clerical workers. Various meetings have been arranged for these groups. There was a good turnout for the first meeting of dispatchers and expeditors at which an active program was adopted.

The organizers point out to office workers that unless they are represented by a union they will be helpless in the face of speed-ups and lay-offs. In Syracuse 200 office workers were laid off because of speed-up during the week of Mar. 18 and another 100 the next week.

YMCA Picks Archer

Sanford L. Archer, assistant business agent of Local 301, has been named chairman of the "Y" Buddy Committee of the Schenectady Young Men's Christian Association. He was in the Navy from March 1944, to November 1945. He has been on the Y Board of Directors since January, 1944.

Labor Sidelights on 1946 State Legislative Session

Very few of the bills which the CIO backed in the 1946 legislative session at Albany came to a nose-counting or roll call vote in either the Assembly or Senate.

As usual, most labor bills were killed in committee and never reached the floor. The CIO move to give veterans the same unemployment insurance rights as non-veterans was so popular that the bill passed unanimously, with Republicans as well as Democrats clamoring to get on the bandwagon.

Isacson rent control bill to have state continue rent controls if federal control ends.
Wallace (Dem) Yes
Foy (Dem) Yes
Dillon (Dem) Yes
Finch (Rep.) No
Ostrander (Rep) No
Parsons (Rep.) No

Brees Amendment to prevent a political party from nominating anyone not enrolled in that party.
Charles C. Wallace (Dem.) Albany County No

George W. Foy (Dem.) Albany County No

James F. Dillon (Dem.) Albany County No

John S. Finch (Rep.) Rensselaer County No

John L. Ostrander (Rep.) Saratoga County Yes

Arthur L. Parsons (Rep.) Schoharie County Yes

This amendment was defeated 76-64 with all Democrats and one ALP man, Leo Isacson, and a smattering of Republicans voting against it.

Isacson motion to rescind \$77,000,000 tax cut (designed to favor big business and higher income groups) and to apportion the \$77,000,000 to cities.
The motion was defeated by a straight party vote, 80 to 57, with all Democrats and ALP Isacson voting "Yes" and a solid Republican front voting "No."

Bill to repeal the section of the Election Law giving workers two hours off with pay on Election Day to vote.
Wallace (Dem.) Absent
Foy (Dem.) Absent
Dillon (Dem.) No
Finch (Rep.) Yes
Ostrander (Rep.) Yes
Parsons (Rep.) Yes

The bill was defeated by a vote of 74 to 43. A companion bill in the Senate died before coming on the floor.

This bill has particular interest to the Capital District because a test case developed when the Ford Motor Co. at Green Island docked three members of the Auto Workers, CIO, for taking time off to vote in the 1944 presidential elections. The company was indicted for violating the law and was convicted in a jury trial in Albany County Court. An appeal is supposed to be pending. The Ford Co., and other people who fear political action by union members have been busy ever since, it is reported, trying to get the law repealed.

Service Improves
Protests of Local 301 against bills to prevent a minority party, like the ALP, from backing the candidate of a major party were so strong that Speaker Oswald D. Heck, Rep., Schenectady, sent a wire to Leo Jandreau to announce defeat of the legislation.

This is the first time Local 301 has received such prompt and personal information about the fate of legislation in Albany from Mr. Heck.

The legislation would have prevented a party from nominating for office anyone who wasn't enrolled in that party. Such a law would have prevented the ALP from backing Roosevelt. It would make it next to impossible for PAC to "Remember in November."

Here are the voting records of Capital District assemblymen on several bills of interest to Local 301. Schenectady County's only assemblyman, Oswald D. Heck, is Speaker of the Assembly and does not vote.

The bill was defeated by a vote of 74 to 56 with Democrats and ALP Isacson voting for it.

The Dewey administration bill on rent control which passed is filled with loopholes and omits ceilings for new housing.

The bill was defeated by a vote of 74 to 43. A companion bill in the Senate died before coming on the floor.

This bill has particular interest to the Capital District because a test case developed when the Ford Motor Co. at Green Island docked three members of the Auto Workers, CIO, for taking time off to vote in the 1944 presidential elections. The company was indicted for violating the law and was convicted in a jury trial in Albany County Court. An appeal is supposed to be pending. The Ford Co., and other people who fear political action by union members have been busy ever since, it is reported, trying to get the law repealed.

The bill was defeated by a vote of 74 to 43. A companion bill in the Senate died before coming on the floor.

This bill has particular interest to the Capital District because a test case developed when the Ford Motor Co. at Green Island docked three members of the Auto Workers, CIO, for taking time off to vote in the 1944 presidential elections. The company was indicted for violating the law and was convicted in a jury trial in Albany County Court. An appeal is supposed to be pending. The Ford Co., and other people who fear political action by union members have been busy ever since, it is reported, trying to get the law repealed.

The bill was defeated by a vote of 74 to 43. A companion bill in the Senate died before coming on the floor.

This bill has particular interest to the Capital District because a test case developed when the Ford Motor Co. at Green Island docked three members of the Auto Workers, CIO, for taking time off to vote in the 1944 presidential elections. The company was indicted for violating the law and was convicted in a jury trial in Albany County Court. An appeal is supposed to be pending. The Ford Co., and other people who fear political action by union members have been busy ever since, it is reported, trying to get the law repealed.

Old Ninth Ward 'Ain't What She Used To Be'—PAC Opens Club



LEO JANDREAU, business agent of Local 301, addresses meeting of Ninth Ward PAC at opening of its new headquarters, 1096 Forest Rd., Schenectady. This is one of the three ward PAC headquarters opened in the city since the strike. More to come. Left to right, front row, are: Edward Wallingford, William Kuschel, William Mastriani, Roy Lash, Sigmund Klein, Joseph Krone, Albert Gisondi and Charles Rivers, all of UE.

New Applications Keep Business Office Buzzing

A flood of new applications has brought an SOS from the business office of Local 301. Electrical Union News was asked to print the following notice to help the people turning in applications as well as the office staff handling them.

"We find that there are many old applications still being used. These should be discarded as they do not carry a space for the new member's check number which is necessary in our records.

"The business office has complete records of all its members from June 1943. Anyone who has turned in a written resignation since that time must pay back dues from the time he submitted his resignation, plus a two dollar initiation fee. Anyone who at any time was dropped through no fault of his own can become a member in good standing by just signing a new application blank with no initiation fee or back dues assessment.

"Veterans who either belonged before entering service or are joining now need pay no initiation fee. The only exception to this rule is the veteran who has belonged to Local 301 since his discharge and has since resigned. In this case the same regulations apply as in the case of the non-veteran. It is

Good Idea To Know Benefit Secretary

During the strike the UE business office discovered that many union members do not know the proper steps to take in case of illness, aside from calling the doctor.

Every section or building has a mutual benefit secretary who usually is a fellow worker in the factory. It is very important that our members know who their secretary is.

It is important also that a person eligible for mutual benefits contact the mutual benefit secretary at once so that he can make out a voucher for the collection of the benefits.

The mutual benefit office will not pay benefits without a voucher. During the strike many persons who should have collected money did not receive checks because their mutual benefit secretary did not know they were ill. Sometimes a check is delayed as long as two months because a worker doesn't get in touch with his mutual benefit secretary on time.

necessary, however, for all veterans to sign a new application form.

"All applications should be marked 'new member', 'resigned', 'reinstatement', or 'veteran'.

Unions Support Peace Meeting In Washington

Charles Rivers, international representative, will represent District 3 of UE this Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Washington, D. C. at the Win-the-Peace Conference called by union leaders, progressive Congressmen and Senators, clergymen and others.

Robert Northrop of Local 2054, United Steel Workers, will be delegate of the Capitol District CIO Council. He is chairman of the Council veterans' committee.

By publication date of this paper, Local 301 was to take action on a recommendation of its Executive Board that two delegates be sent.

Many other upstate UE and CIO locals have elected delegates. The call to the conference urged support of Big Three Unity, UNO and a democratic foreign policy.

How Long Is Soon?

Any day now the Wage Stabilization Board should okay the 18 1/2 cent hourly pay raise won by the strike. But GE can't pay it until the government board officially approves. Your union officers are taking all possible steps to get speedy action.