

1920 "Clerical Error"

In recent contract negotiations, the Remington-Rand Corp. surprised UE Local 304 representatives when they sought a contract clause providing for correction of "clerical errors" in job classifications.

Before the union even had a chance to figure out the reason for this company demand, it found out. In one department of the Tonawanda plant, supervision attempted to downgrade a worker who had been working on the same job since 1920. The reason—a "clerical error" 32 years ago.

Drop in BLS Index Dents Wage Increase

(Continued from Page 1)

participation on the wage freeze board, as well as the pattern set by CIO unions, has made it virtually impossible to negotiate pay boosts outside of the limitations of the wage freeze.

From the beginning of the recent negotiations with the company, UE has been handicapped by the immediate acceptance of the company wage offer by the IUE-CIO and by the failure of the Carey leadership to accept UE's proposals for joint negotiations.

UE will have an opportunity to make up for the money lost on account of the wage freeze when the economic provisions of the contract are re-opened in March.

Nomination of Officers for Next Year Leads Agenda for Monday Meeting

Monday's UE Local 301 membership meeting shapes up as one of the most important gatherings of the union in the past year. The crowded agenda will include nomination of officers and a constitutions committee report on the proposed 50c a month dues increase.

Carey Confesses GE Pact Sabotage

An amazing admission that he sabotaged negotiations between GE and the unions by refusing to accept UE's bid for joint negotiations was made by James Carey at the recent IUE-CIO convention in Pittsburgh. Carey's exact words were:

"We had plenty of opportunity to stop GE. Months ago the UE offered us an alliance with regard to the forthcoming GE negotiations. But we rejected it."

In these words the IUE-CIO dictator admitted that he has no interest in improving the living and working conditions of GE workers, and that he is more interested in keeping his personal power than in healing the split which he caused, a split which has cost GE employees as well as workers throughout the electrical industry hundreds of dollars in wages.

Instead of seeking unity of all workers within the industry, Carey boasts that he has refused offers along this line by UE, and then goes on to call for a Justice Department investigation in an attempt to break UE.

The nomination of officers will help to decide the leadership and the policies to be pursued by our union in the next year. At stake will be the posts of local president, vice president, recording secretary, assistant recording secretary, treasurer, chief shop steward and business agent.

In addition nominations will be made for three trustees, the guide and sergeant-at-arms. The nominees will go before the union membership in a secret ballot election early in December. In order to conduct this election, the meeting will also elect a 25-member elections committee.

Following their nomination, candidates will have ten days in which to accept or decline.

As for the dues question, the membership meeting will climax several months during which Local 301 has done everything possible to determine what the will of its membership is. The proposal to increase dues by 50c a month in order to build a defense fund and obtain the necessary money to construct a union hall was first made this summer. The officers and executive board endorsed the proposal as necessary for the welfare of the union.

A canvas of the men and women in the works was then inaugurated. To date a majority of the union's membership has been approached and sentiment for the dues hike has been running at about three to one. In most groups, board members and shop stewards have held meetings to explain the need for the dues increase and to provide ample time for full discussion of the issue. Further opportunity for a democratic debate of the question will be provided Monday.

If the 50c raise is approved, all of the added revenue will stay in the local. The national union's per capita tax of 75c per member will remain unchanged. In fact, the additional 50c will be placed in a special fund, usable only for the defense of the union and for the construction of a new hall.

The meeting will be in two sessions, with the second shift meeting at 1:00 p.m., and the first and third shifts coming together at 7:30 p.m.

301 Board Favors More Strike Aid

The UE Local 301 executive board Monday night voted to recommend that the membership contribute another \$1,000 out of the union's treasury to aid union members striking against International Harvester and General Cable.

The action came after reports by the local's delegates to the District 3 council which met in Binghamton on Sunday. The council had heard Frank Mingo, one of the leaders of the 30,000 UE members striking in the Harvester chain, report on the progress of the strike. They also heard a report on the General Cable strike in Rome which is now entering its 23rd week.

The Harvester leader told of the concentrated efforts to break the strike on the part of the company, its agents in Congress, local authorities and the big business press. He assured the district meeting that the strikers would remain solid in their fight to keep the big corporations from succeeding in the first step of their campaign to destroy UE contracts in the big chains.

IUE Convention Hears Boss of Westinghouse

How low can an organization which claims to be a labor union sink?

This question must have been in the minds of the many honest union men and women who attended the IUE-CIO Pittsburgh convention and had to listen to a speech by Gwylim Price, president of Westinghouse corporation, notorious for its use of all of the weapons in the bosses' arsenal to attack the working people.

Price received fulsome praise from IUE-CIO dictator Carey. He was cited as a model boss, and he in turn praised the "responsibility" and "respectability" of Carey.

But the record as presented in the IUE-CIO officers' report showed in the past year, Price's corporation had "initiated a wholesale offensive against its workers at their contractual gains." The report cited a lockout of IUE members in Bowling Green, Ky., a forced three-month strike in Buffalo, and attempts by the company to pay less than the federal minimum wage of 75c in the South.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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Friday, November 7, 1952

Membership Votes Increase in Dues

Only three dissenting votes were cast Monday as the UE Local 301 membership meeting approved a proposal to increase union dues by a half-dollar to \$2.50 a month. The nearly unanimous ratification vote was the final step in the local's democratic procedure for changing the dues rate.

The vote itself came on a motion to approve a constitutional amendment offered by the 301 constitutions committee. This amendment specified that the additional 50c would be placed in a special building fund to be used only with the specific approval of the membership at regular meetings.

This action followed on the heels of a works-wide canvas inaugurated by the executive board last summer. This canvas was designed to give every member of the local a chance to vote either for or against the proposed increase.

More than half of the union's members actually did express their views through this canvas, and sentiment was overwhelmingly in favor of the boost.

The dues hike paves the way for the establishment of a defense fund big enough to meet any emergencies which the union may face in the near future. It also makes possible carrying forward of plans to build a badly-needed new union hall.

The dues increase does not change the amount of money being paid in the form of per capita taxes to either the national union or to UE District 3.



KEY REPORT. Anthony Campriello, secretary of the constitutions committee, reports to the membership meeting on his group's recommendations for a 50c monthly dues increase. The report was approved overwhelmingly.

Three Named for Presidency As Local Nominates Officers

Contests for all major offices except that of business agent loomed following the nomination at Monday's membership meeting of candidates for the leadership posts in Local 301.

However, in all cases it won't be definitely known who is to be on the ballot until later today when the deadline for acceptances or declinations will have been passed.

Only Leo Jandreau appears to be assured of re-election without opposition to the job he has held for many years. Three names were tossed into the hat as nominees for the union's presidency. They were James Cognetta, running for re-election to the post he won last year, Dewey Brashear of Bldg. 81 and John Clune of Bldg. 273.

Two men from turbine were nominated for the vice presidency. They were Joe Alois and Bill McColl. The current vice president, Roy Schaffer, was proposed for the job of recording secretary, as were Ignatius Mack of Bldg. 60 and John Smith of 273.

Two hats were tossed into the ring for the assistant recording secretaryship. They belonged to Rudy Rissland, now recording secretary, and Robert Popowitz.

The contest for local treasurer brought the greatest number of candidates. The four who were nominated for this post were Joseph Whitbeck of 76; Henry Kaminski of 76; Reginald Cartier of 273 and Bill Fisher of 81.

William Mastriani was nominated for re-election as chief shop steward. The possibility of this contest being three-cornered was raised by the nomination of Rodney Bardin of 273 and Jack DeGraff of 60.

The present holders of the jobs of guide and sergeant-at-arms, Mario Bugnato and Joseph Saccocio, were renominated without opposition. Several candidates were suggested for the three posts of trustees of the local. They were Vincent Palazeko, Anders Christensen, William Garrison, Edward Lubarda, Joseph Hills, and Joseph Whitbeck.

Elections Committee

The following persons were elected Monday to the 25-member elections committee which will have the job of setting a date for and conducting the vote to decide the leadership of UE Local 301 next year:

Anthony Rossi, Campbell Ave.; Gus Kuder, Bldg. 73A; Pat Lombardi, 273; Don Palmer, 17; Robert Northrop, 17; Troy Snipes, 46; Willard Kuschel, 107; J. Cantore, 18; Sal DiPietro, 60; Wayne Lewis, 52; R. Armstrong, 40; Mike Riggi, 60; J. Piechocki, 66; A. Butera, 52; W. Smith, 60; R. Baker, 69; E. Ronka, Knolls; G. Wilson, 60; J. Hines, 60; Mary Bunting, 64; Kate Barrett, 40; E. DiNicola, 68; John Saccocio, 66; D. McWinne, Racetrack; and L. Pasakoff, Racetrack.

301 Starts Protest Drive Against Attack on Matles

A large-scale letter and post card campaign aimed at informing Attorney General James McGranery of the resentment felt by UE Local 301 members against the planned attacks on James Matles, UE Director of organization, was launched at the local membership meeting Monday.

Several hundred protest post cards were sent out right from the meeting. These cards followed a telegram authorized by the meeting on behalf of the membership of the local. This wire emphasized that the political persecution of Matles was nothing more or less than an attack on our union. It was stressed that the government

attacks on Matles were being made only because he is a leader in a union which fights in the interests of its membership and against big business attempts to cut the living standards of the American people. The local took particular note of the brutal tactics being used to frame Matles. Agents of the immigration service have attempted to intimidate Matles' elder brother, who is permanently bed-ridden, into testifying falsely against the UE leader.

The move to strip Matles of the U. S. citizenship which he has held for 18 years is still in its preliminary stages. Apparently the big corporation agents want eventually to deport the UE leader to Europe. In his 23 years in the U. S., Matles has continuously been in the forefront of the fight to raise the living standards of workers throughout the country. He was one of the founders of UE and has served as its organizational director steadily except for the years he spent in the U. S. Army during World War II.

The UE leader has emphasized that a major protest at this point could serve to nip in the bud the denaturalization and deportation proceedings which have not been formally opened.

Members Appropriate Money for Xmas Party

Plans for a big Christmas party for children of UE Local 301 members began to take shape this week with the approval by Monday's membership meeting of a \$2,500 allotment for the affair.

The approval came after activities committee chairman O. B. Phillips presented his group's ideas on the party. Phillips proposed that a new giveaway program should be initiated to help defray the expenses of running the event and providing gifts for all of the kids who would attend. However, the members rejected this on the grounds that nothing should be allowed to interfere with the collection of money for UE strikers at this time.

Nevertheless it was felt that the committee's proposals for running a party which every child of a union member could attend were sound ones. The exact details of the financing and the devising of a system for making sure that everyone who wanted to come to the party could get in were left for the next membership gathering.

The money appropriated for the party comes out of the profits made on the giveaway program early last summer and the September field day. Both events were highly successful financially.



Hard Coal Raise Heats Up Freeze

The determination of the United Mine Workers to break the wage freeze was emphasized this week by the announcement that the union had negotiated a contract with the hard coal bosses containing the same \$1.90 daily wage increase which had earlier been won for the soft coal miners.

The Wage Stabilization Board had cut the raise to \$1.50, leading to a spontaneous walkout by the soft coal workers. However, they went back after UMW leader John L. Lewis apparently obtained a promise from President Truman to restore the cut.

The WSB crackdown on the wage increase won by the miners in collective bargaining exposed once again the anti-union character of the wage freeze setup. The wage freeze robs workers of negotiated wage increases while big corporation profits and prices are allowed to rise without any real checks.

From the beginning of the freeze, UE has maintained that labor has no business being represented on an anti-labor group such as the WSB. The union has pointed out that this representation gives the pro-corporation setup the appearance of fairness. UE has repeatedly called on the CIO and AFL to quit the board, and by doing so to end the wage freeze. Recently sentiment for this position has been growing rapidly among the rank and file members of both labor federations.

Carey Won't Sign

Jim Carey, who threatened to resign if he had to accept the contract won by UE from General Electric, has found an out. He has just announced that he would not sign the pact which IUE-CIO accepted four weeks after UE, resulting in a big loss in pay for its members. Of course, the contract will go into effect anyway, with IUE-GE conference board head John Callahan putting his signature in place of Carey's. Once again Carey has come up with a "gimmick" to replace honesty.

Report Big Rent Hikes

The end of rent controls in 900 areas on Sept. 30 has resulted in rent increases ranging from 10% to 200% and many evictions according to reports received by the U. S. Office of Rent Stabilization in Washington. The biggest rent boosts were in the South but hikes of as high as 50% were reported from the Philadelphia area.

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NEW STEWARD. Reatha Pipe of Bldg. 50 was sworn in as a shop steward at Monday's membership meeting.

Profits Way Up

Corporation profits after taxes were considerably over the profits for the same period last year according to a survey made by the Wall Street Journal.

Pro-big business tax laws helped to increase the gains made by the companies just as anti-labor laws cut more heavily into the earnings of working men and women.

The electrical manufacturing industry, which includes General Electric, showed a profit jump of 99.3% over 1951. In other words profits for the industry nearly doubled according to the report.

Wages remain frozen.

State Unions Have Major Job Of Changing Anti-Labor Laws

When the 1953 session of the New York State legislature opens in January, organized labor will have a number of important items of unfinished business to take up in Albany.

Two major questions will be particularly important—revising the pro-employer compensation and unemployment insurance laws.

UE will continue its fight to repeal the Hughes-Brees amendments to the unemployment insurance laws. Under the present setup, the laws are rigged so that employers are "paid" to cheat on the workers who apply for unemployment insurance. The law also forces workers involved in strikes and lockouts to wait a full seven weeks before becoming eligible for insurance benefits. This of course is an important employers' strike-breaking weapon.

Our union, along with many sections of organized labor, is fighting to eliminate the waiting period, restore the 52 week maximum duration of benefits which was cut to 26 weeks by Hughes-Brees, increase maximum weekly benefits from \$30 to \$40 plus an allowance for each dependent, and end the situation which makes it profitable for employers to fight against giving individual workers the benefit to which they are entitled.

On the compensation question, UE will also seek major changes in the law. The present maximum weekly payment for totally disabled workers is \$32 a week. This is completely inadequate in the face of today's prices. The union aims to raise the benefits to \$40 a week, with an allowance of at least \$3 for each dependent. This will make it possible for injured workers to at least provide the bare necessities for themselves and their families.

Another phase of the workmen's compensation law which is against the interests of working people is that establishing a schedule which mechanically fixes the amount of disability resulting from each injury. In many cases, workers who are completely unable to do the jobs for which they have been trained, and in which they are experienced, are considered to be only 25% or 30% disabled.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

UE ON THE JOB

Bldg. 49: W. Bednarowski is classified as an A lathe operator with a rate of \$1.87½. Recently he requested an upgrade and transfer to the first shift in the first available opening. However, another lathe operator with much less service than this worker's 16 years was given an open 1st shift lathe job. The union demands an end to this discrimination against Bednarowski and the requested transfer and upgrading for him.

Bldg. 60: Joseph Donnelly has been falsely accused by Foreman Stewart of spilling a diamond wheel. This was one of the two reconditioned wheels issued in May and which have been used by a number of workers on two shifts. The union demands that the foreman stop making false charges and that new diamond wheels be issued so that the operators can give top quality performance.

Core assemblers' group under Foreman J. Bergen is faced with an indefinite lack of work period. The union demands a reduction of forces in accordance with Article XI section 4 of the contract.

The actuator clutch assembly Dg. 9783516 has always been done by B assemblers in Bldg. 46. It has now been moved to 60 and downgraded to C. In addition, the assemblers are now required to do assembly work over and above their test work. The union demands restoration of the B classification and the return of all test work to testers.

Bldg. 66: The group working under Foreman Bleecker has lost

4 weeks on rotation recently due to the steel shortage. Further lost time is in prospect. The union therefore demands reduction of forces in compliance with contract Article XI section 4.

Bldg. 97: The group assigned to dismantling operations protests the reduction in price from \$3.33 to \$3.05 per thousand. The union demands restoration of the \$3.33 price.

Bldg. 269: A group demands an end to the practice of assigning meter (instrument) calibrator work to them when it properly belongs to electricians.

A group protests the use of a man classified as an instrument calibrator to the work of a leader and instructor. It further protests the assignment of electrician's and piece work production work to this man.

Bldg. 273: Andrew J. Ward and Samuel Cipriano protest the violation of past practice and of an agreement with Mr. Brearton's office in regard to upgradings and

shift changes. The foreman has disregarded shift changes merely because it was simpler for him to do so. The union demands adherence to past practice and agreements even if it does not completely suit the convenience of supervision.

The union demands an increase in rate for Louis Woodcock because of the increase in size of stator frames for painting, the increase in the number of cooler openings and the additional hazards of his job.

Bldg. 285: M. Fredericks protests the unequal distribution of overtime among the persons of her department. She also questions the need for another operator on her job in view of past and present production requirements. A management investigation is demanded.

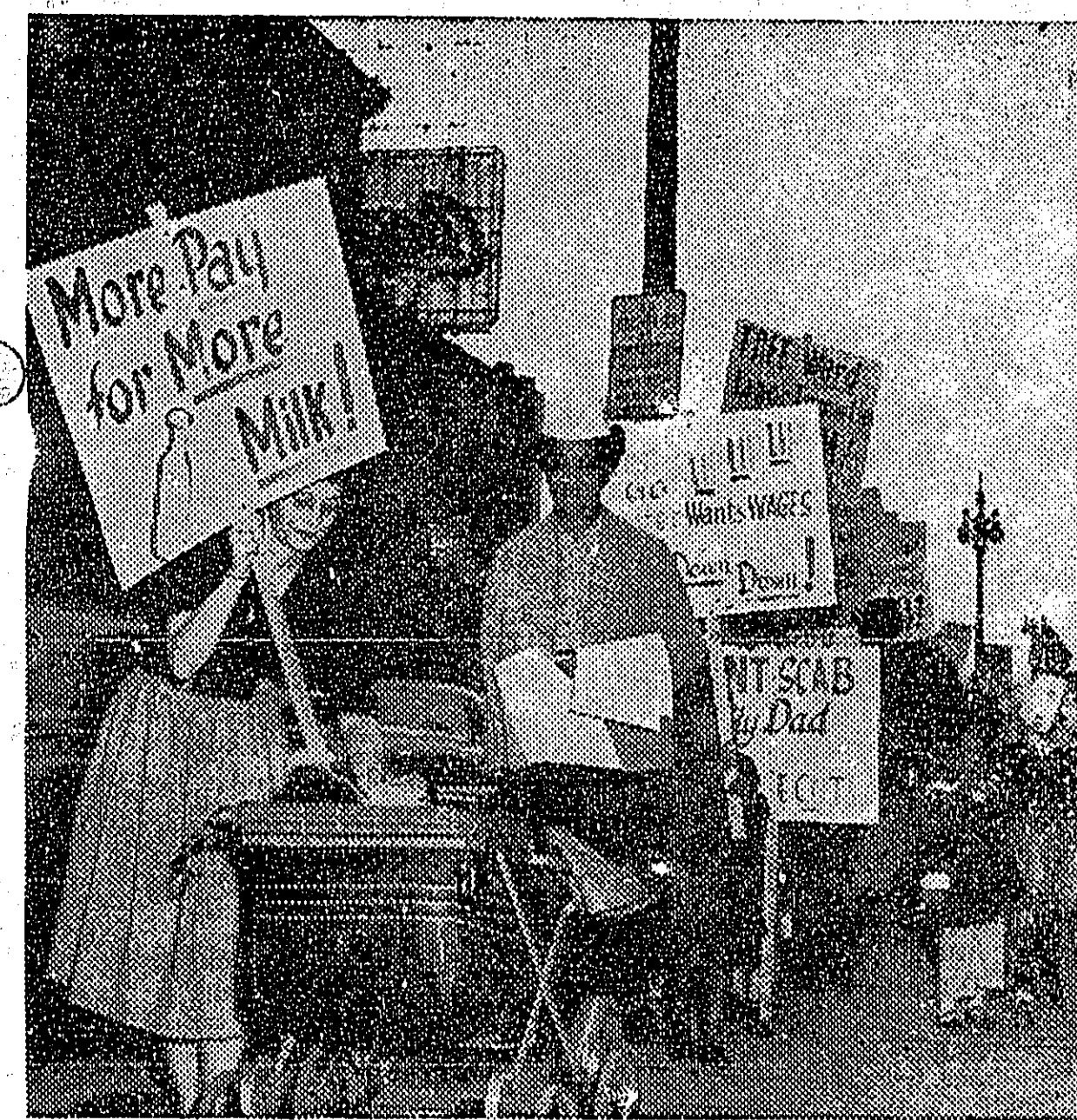
Campbell Ave.: B. Boyden is classified as an E bench assembler with a \$1.34 rate. She previously did similar work in another department and was paid \$1.47. Now she is being asked to instruct other workers. Her job requires soldering terminals to stainless steel castings with the use of Ruby on a hot plate. As a result she has suffered from annoying blisters and a rash. The union demands she be paid the \$1.47 rate with a 2-step increase to \$1.56½ if any further instruction is required.

A Hulet is a B machinist-machine repairman. His duties are Class A and the union demands reclassification and rate increase.

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Local 301

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS



BABY BUGGY BRIGADE. Wives of Harvester strikers in Chicago bring the youngest generation onto the picket lines to let the company know that the solidarity of the strikers goes for strikers' families too.

Corporations Try to Weaken Unions by Hitting Families

Because the current political attacks on the leadership of UE are aimed at lowering the living standards of all families by weakening militant trade unions, it is not surprising that these attacks should be levelled at entire families.

This is the kind of persecution being aimed by the big business politicians against UE International Representative William Sentner, his wife, Toni, and their three children. The attack started several years ago with an attempt to deport Toni Sentner to Yugoslavia, the country which she had left as a child of eight.

All of Toni Sentner's friends were of course in the U. S. as are her three children and four grandchildren. However, the big corporation agents thought that they could stop the work of Bill Sentner on behalf of the working people by threatening to break up his family. Sentner had gotten in the hair of the bosses by his work as a leader of UE, and by his activities as chairman of the Missouri CIO-PAC when that group was a fighting organization working in the interests of such projects as a Missouri Valley Authority.

However, Sentner refused to be intimidated so it was necessary to try a new line of attack. Deportation proceedings were impossible since Sentner was born in St. Louis. The UE international representative was guilty of no crimes, so a frameup charge had to be concocted. For this purpose, the Smith Act was ideal.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Membership Stresses Need To Contribute to Strikes

UE Local 301's membership voted Monday to contribute an additional \$1,000 to the General Cable strikers who have been on the picket lines in Rome, N. Y., and in California for 23 weeks.

The contribution was made in response to an appeal from the strikers, many of whom lack funds to purchase fuel and the simplest necessities for their families.

At the same time the membership pledged a major effort to collect money throughout the Schenectady works to aid the Cable strikers and the 30,000 men and women who have been striking the International Harvester corporation since Aug. 22.

The unanimous vote of support for the strikers came after several speakers emphasized the importance of these strikes to the GE workers in Schenectady. It was stressed that a defeat for UE in either of these strikes would encourage General Electric management to try and destroy our contract protections next year. Business Agent Leo Jandreau pointed out that the company brought up proposals to weaken our contract this year, but they were beaten down in negotiations.

However, if Harvester and Cable get away with their attempts to rip their union contracts to shreds, then GE would feel that there was no reason for them not to follow suit.

Both Harvester and Cable presented demands to the union which included cutting wage rates by as much as 50c an hour, destroying incentive guarantees, ending seniority protections and instituting unlimited speedup. It was these demands that forced the workers to take strike action.

Prepare Fight to End GE Pension Chiselling

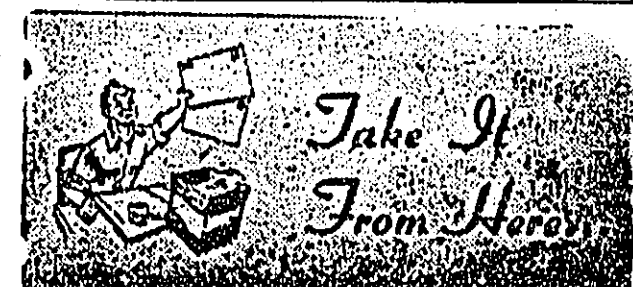
GE company spokesmen are strangely silent on the question of the management's decision to cut the pensions of many pensioners to offset the \$5 to \$8 social security increase voted by Congress.

The reason for the silence is obvious. It would be pretty close to impossible for the Worker News and other company propaganda organs to make this chiselling fit in with company claims of generosity to its employees.

What GE is doing is saving what for them is an insignificant sum at the expense of men and women who are struggling to make ends meet on pensions which have been outstripped by the high cost of living. The company move specifically cuts the pensions of those persons who were being "made up" to the \$125 pension minimum.

This means that the GE pension bill will be lower but it also means that the men and women, most of whom have given many years of service and many dollars in profits to GE, will not get the few dollars that they need badly for necessities.

UE is pressing the fight to restore this ridiculously unfair cut. This fight will be taken to New York in the wage re-opener talks at the beginning of the year. In the meantime, Local 301 is mobilizing the pensioners to put whatever pressure they can on the company.



Detroit—UE Local 947 has won approval of a seventh paid holiday from the Wage Stabilization Board in a contract negotiated with the Wagner Electric Co. This is the first time that approval of a seventh paid holiday in a small plant has been granted by the WSB.

Chicago—The CIO United Packinghouse Workers has signed an agreement providing a 4c hourly wage increase for 30,000 workers employed by the Armour Co.

Wilkes Barre, Pa.—A 10c hourly general wage boost and an additional inequity adjustment which brought increases ranging from 4c to 17c for about half of the workers are features of a new contract signed by UE Local 114 and the Foster Wheeler Corp.

Los Angeles—The AFL machinists have signed a contract providing a substantial wage increase for 25,000 employees of the Lockheed Corp. The agreement ends a strike which had been in progress since August.

White Plains, N.Y.—UE District 4, which represents workers in Metropolitan New York and New Jersey, has approved a program of defense of the union and its leadership. The district council took special action in pledging aid to the International Harvester and General Cable strikers, and support to union leaders now being victimized by political frameups and persecution.

Cleveland—The National Negro Labor Council will open its second annual convention here on Nov. 21 with William Hood, Recording Secretary of UAW Ford Local 600, presiding.

Evansville, Ind.—A protest by UE Local 813 caused the Community Chest here to drop D. W. Vaughn, union-hating labor relations director of the Seeger Co., as the head of its industrial division. The UE said that it would withdraw its representative from the Community Chest group unless Vaughn was removed. Vaughn was replaced.

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