

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A.

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

March 24, 1950

## Members Firm on Defending UE Gains

### GE Sued for \$1,550,000 By 30 Silicosis Victims

A suit for \$1,550,000 was filed against the General Electric Company in New York Supreme Court this week by 30 Schenectady and Elmira workers suffering from various stages of silicosis. The national UE office is handling the case through the union attorneys.

The workers include 15 men and one woman from Local 301, workers in Building 68, and 14 men from the Elmira local. As they are not totally disabled they cannot file workmen's compensation claims. A peculiar provision of the workmen's compensation law allows claims for silicosis to be filed only by people who are totally disabled by the disease. So the group had to go to Supreme Court in this test case which will determine the rights of themselves and other workers under similar circumstances.

UE-301 has filed numerous workmen's compensation claims for silicosis victims who were totally disabled.

In its legislative program UE has pressed for enactment of a bill to give silicosis sufferers the same workmen's compensation rights as people suffering from other occupational diseases. The State CIO last year asked legislators to ignore a statewide conference called by UE on improving the compensation law.

UE last year exposed a number of silicosis cases at Schenectady and Elmira through lung x-rays and medical examinations arranged by the union. It has demanded that GE cooperate in a joint survey of conditions in shops where workers are exposed to dust.

UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald charged this week that GE has shown "a complete and callous indifference and disregard for the health and welfare of its employees." He said that the hazardous conditions in the Elmira foundry and the Ceramics division in Schenectady could be prevented at a relatively low cost. Silicosis rots the lungs, he pointed out, makes normal breathing impossible and makes the worker liable to tuberculosis.

### 301 Aids Polio Fight



President William J. Kelly, left, hands UE-301's check for \$2,306.02 to William Mayotte, chairman of the March of Dimes drive in Schenectady County. Shop stewards collected the money at the plant for infantile paralysis victims.

### 301 Membership To Meet Tuesday

Maintaining the working conditions here after the April 1 contract termination will be the principal subject of the UE-301 membership meeting Tuesday, Mar. 28 at the union hall. Second shift workers will meet at 12:45 a.m., after the end of the Monday night shift. First and third shift workers will meet at 7:30 p.m.

One of the leaders of UE work-

### Back UE-301 by Paying April Dues Next Week

Shop stewards will concentrate next week on collecting April dues before Apr. 1 termination of the contract. Membership books in which to paste dues stamps are already in the hands of the majority of members, who have pledged to pay promptly.

The dues drive gives the membership a chance to show clearly to the General Electric Company that they are staying with UE and that the contract conditions must be maintained at the plant. Backing the union with your dues payments is serving notice on GE that UE is remaining intact to fight for the gains made over the past 14 years and for a better contract in 1950.

Local 301 voted for direct collection of dues after maneuvers of the company and the "Imitation UE" tied up four months' check-off funds in Federal Court.

ers at Westinghouse Airbrake has been invited to speak on the outstanding new pension and insurance plan negotiated there by UE.

The 301 Executive Board had to call the membership meeting at the union hall because weeks of effort to rent a theater or another hall for the meeting were unsuccessful.

### IUE Now Trying to Duck Blame For Loss of GE Workers' Contract

Crudest fraud of the week is the "Imitation UE" leaflet's blown-up statement that James B. Carey "disclosed" that GE had "agreed not to cancel any contract benefits" after April 1.

GE made no such agreement, but made a vague promise to continue "various employee benefits." GE workers know that GE's promises are meaningless without enforcement by UE. And GE left out any mention of piece work standards. But the IUE thinks it can kid the workers in order to escape the blame for having teamed up with GE to leave the workers without a contract.

As an additional cheap little trick Carey is quoted as "disclos-

ing" to the IUE followers the statement which the company had given to UE and the general public more than a week before. Imitation news from an imitation union.

The IUE hails the GE announcement as a victory. Of course, when the workers are robbed of benefits, it's a "victory" for the company union. But it's a "victory" which will bounce back. The workers will have the say with their VOTE UE.

### GE Getting Tougher as Apr. 1 Nears

With contract expiration one week off, UE members here and throughout the GE chain are preparing to defend their working conditions against GE chiseling and IUE interference. There is no word yet even as to the probable date of a Labor Board election.

The company Monday fired its last shot in the series of formal moves to stall the election. It filed a 123-page brief with the Board. Because of this and the lengthy record of testimony, the NLRB can offer excuses for further delaying the election to help IUE and GE. Only intense public pressure can force a speedy election.

#### Trouble Over Piece Work

The company showed its hand on contract conditions by an increasing toughness on grievances, particularly on piece work issues, as the contract expiration date approached.

This attitude caused a stoppage of all hand screw machine operators on the second floor of Bldg. 42 Tuesday, the second by the group in one week. The issue was chiseling on past practices, specifically payment of partial set-ups where formerly full set-ups were paid, and refusal to pay for legitimate rework.

#### Typical Role of IUE

The role of the IUE also showed up typically in this situation. While the men were solid, John Rej, who calls himself IUE chief shop steward, ridiculed the grievances which caused the stoppage. Then he turned around and tried to horn in on representation of the men. He was kept firmly out of the way.

Following the second stoppage, 301 officers and a committee from the group met again Wednesday with Works Manager Lewis J. Male and obtained an improved offer which the group agreed to

(Continued on page three)



## THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE

### West Pittston Strikers Vote to Leave CIO

Striking members of Local 4150, United Steel Workers of America (CIO), employed at the American Chain & Cable Co. plant in West Pittston yesterday afternoon voted to disaffiliate with the CIO.

The members of the local met yesterday afternoon in the home of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Pittston, and voted unanimously to withdraw from the organization.

They signed cards to instruct officials of the firm that they no longer want union dues stopped from their pay and that they no longer are affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

A spokesman for the local said that the action was taken because the union declined to furnish the local with legal service when the company obtained an injunction against the union to restrain picketing at the home of plant foremen and at the factory.

Judge William A. Valentine

FEB. 13, 1950

**SOLD OUT** in a contract forced down their throats by Phil Murray, United Steelworkers Local 4150 at West Pittston, Pa., went on strike for a pay raise Dec. 12. Two months later the local voted to continue the strike, but to leave the Steel union and the CIO. The CIO office had refused legal aid to help them fight against an injunction the American Chain and Cable Co. obtained against the strike. But the CIO offered its services to the company to try to force the men back....

### Let Boulware Go Tell It to the Miners!

Would GE's L. R. Boulware care to leave his propaganda tower long enough to go tell the miners in the coal fields that "the miners lost" in the recent strike? That was his message in last week's "Works News," dressed up with the stock GE arguments that higher wages endanger the industry and that the miners lost wages during the strike.

The miners might be hard to convince. They protected an outstanding pension plan at a time when the CIO unions are settling (with the same industry groups that own the mines) for miserable pension plans. The miners won a 70-cents a day raise when the CIO unions are agreeing to no-raise for two or three years.

Above all the miners defeated Taft-Hartley and saved their union from those who would destroy it through Taft-Hartley. This was a victory for the miners, and also for all labor and American democracy. The miners know you don't measure these things

against a temporary loss of wages, no matter how hard. And that is why the rank and file of miners made their decision to strike, and won.

Of course Boulware repeats the old line that wage increases are bad, that they just raise the cost of living. The whole experience of the past 10 years shows that prices are raised (or lowered) arbitrarily without relationship to wages, according to the degree of monopoly control of the industry and "what the traffic will bear."

### Third Shift Veterans Will Meet Thursday

A meeting of veterans employed on the third shift will be held at the 301 hall, at Erie Blvd. and Liberty St. next Thursday morning at 7:30 (immediately after the end of the Wednesday night shift.)

The meeting has been arranged at the request of a group of third shift vets to discuss third shift problems as they affect veterans.

#### ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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### City Council Won't Ask Labor Board For GE Election Here Before April 1

The Schenectady City Council this week refused to act on UE 301's request to call on the National Labor Relations Board for a GE election before April 1. However, UE's request did result in Mayor Owen Begley's telephoning the board in Washington to inquire about the matter.

Mayor Begley told a delegation of UE stewards and members at the Council meeting Monday night that from his call to Washington he was satisfied the NLRB was doing all in its power to speed a vote. He said the board official he spoke to had said the board had received numerous messages requesting speed.

The Council did not want to take formal action, Begley said, because any such action might be interpreted as a condemnation of the NLRB's actions to date.

That was the same reason given by George Pfeif, of top GE management, for refusing to sign a joint petition to the board for an election before April 1.

#### UE Makes Request

The UE's request to the Council was presented at the Council caucus last week by Joseph Mangino, 301 vice-president; Virginia Murphy, assistant recording secretary; and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent. They told the Council that failure to hold an election before contract expiration might cause serious difficulty in the plant, which would hurt the whole city, and that GE and the IUE had publicly claimed they wanted a speedy election.

At the Council caucus Monday night Frank Kriss, who calls himself IUE business agent, read a long red-baiting attack on UE and on Pasche personally, and then wound up with the IUE's usual feeble statement that they also wanted an early election.

#### Gives Facts on IUE

Pasche pointed out that Kriss' attack consisted of the usual falsehoods debunked before. Pasche said the UE had come to the Council for help in getting a speedy election, not to engage in attacks. But the record shows, Pasche said, that IUE has rejected repeated offers by UE, locally and nationally, for a consent election on the very terms IUE publicly said it wanted. Pasche pointed out also that IUE would be on the ballot here and in most GE plants by grace of the company, because the IUE could not get enough members to qualify under Taft-Hartley rules, and GE's petition made it possible for the IUE to get on.

Frank Emspak, Bldg. 46 shop steward, told the Council conference that a resolution to the NLRB would be in order. Salvatore

#### Another IUE Flop

Dr. James Smith, city councilman, and Frank Kriss, who calls himself IUE business agent, were the main characters in a brazen political maneuver intended to provide some anti-UE headlines. The trick failed because UE told Dr. Smith to mind his business.

The maneuver was a by-product of UE 301's appeal to the City Council for help in getting an NLRB election before April 1. (See separate story). Kriss delivered a red-baiting blast, having nothing to do with the issue, and Victor Pasche, assistant to Leo Jandreaux, called it a tissue of falsehoods and got back to the election issues.

Dr. Smith asked Pasche if he would meet with him the next day to discuss Kriss' charges. Pasche said he would be glad to meet, but not if the purpose was to arrange a circus. Dr. Smith said very definitely not.

When Pasche got to the City Hall Tuesday afternoon, he found Dr. Smith with a court stenographer, newspapermen, and a flock of local and out-of-town IUE characters, including R. J. Thomas, who was red-baited out of the Auto Workers presidency and is now the chief CIO disorganizer in Schenectady. Dr. Smith talked about a "hearing."

Pasche told Dr. Smith that no one had given him authority to conduct a hearing, and that he was being used as a willing tool in a political trick on behalf of Kriss and the outside forces behind him. Pasche also told Dr. Smith that the City Council should be helping GE workers get an election and not interfering in their union affairs. He told Dr. Smith that UE representatives were responsible for their conduct to the GE workers, not to politicians.

Shop Stewards Michael Rakvica of Bldg. 53 and Peter Pisano of 77, both of them local Democratic party leaders, accompanied Pasche and told Dr. Smith they resented their party being used against GE workers.

Then the UE members walked out and left the political circus high and dry.

Maletta of Bldg. 52 repeated the request from the floor of the Council chamber.

### CIO Badly Defeated By Tobacco Workers

Workers at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, N. C. this month made it very clear in a National Labor Relations Board election that they want no part of the CIO and its raiding tactics.

They cast more than six times as many votes for the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural Workers Union (independent) as they did for the CIO Transport Service Employees Union.

The vote was 3,323 for FTA; 541 for CIO and 1,514 for an AFL union. As there were 3,426 ballots cast for "no union", there will be a run-off election shortly between FTA and "no union." Votes for the three unions on the ballot totaled 5,378. FTA decisively defeated both the AFL and CIO unions by a better than three to two majority.

The national CIO concentrated 30 organizers, almost the entire staff of the CIO southern drive, on the campaign to try to smash Local 22, FTA, at Winston-Salem. George Baldanzi, director of the southern drive, was in personal charge.

FTA members at the Reynolds Company are confident of winning the run-off election between FTA and "no union". The workers have clearly shown they want a union by a five to three majority 5,378 of the 8,992 votes cast. And both the CIO and AFL have been eliminated.

#### New Victory at Latrobe

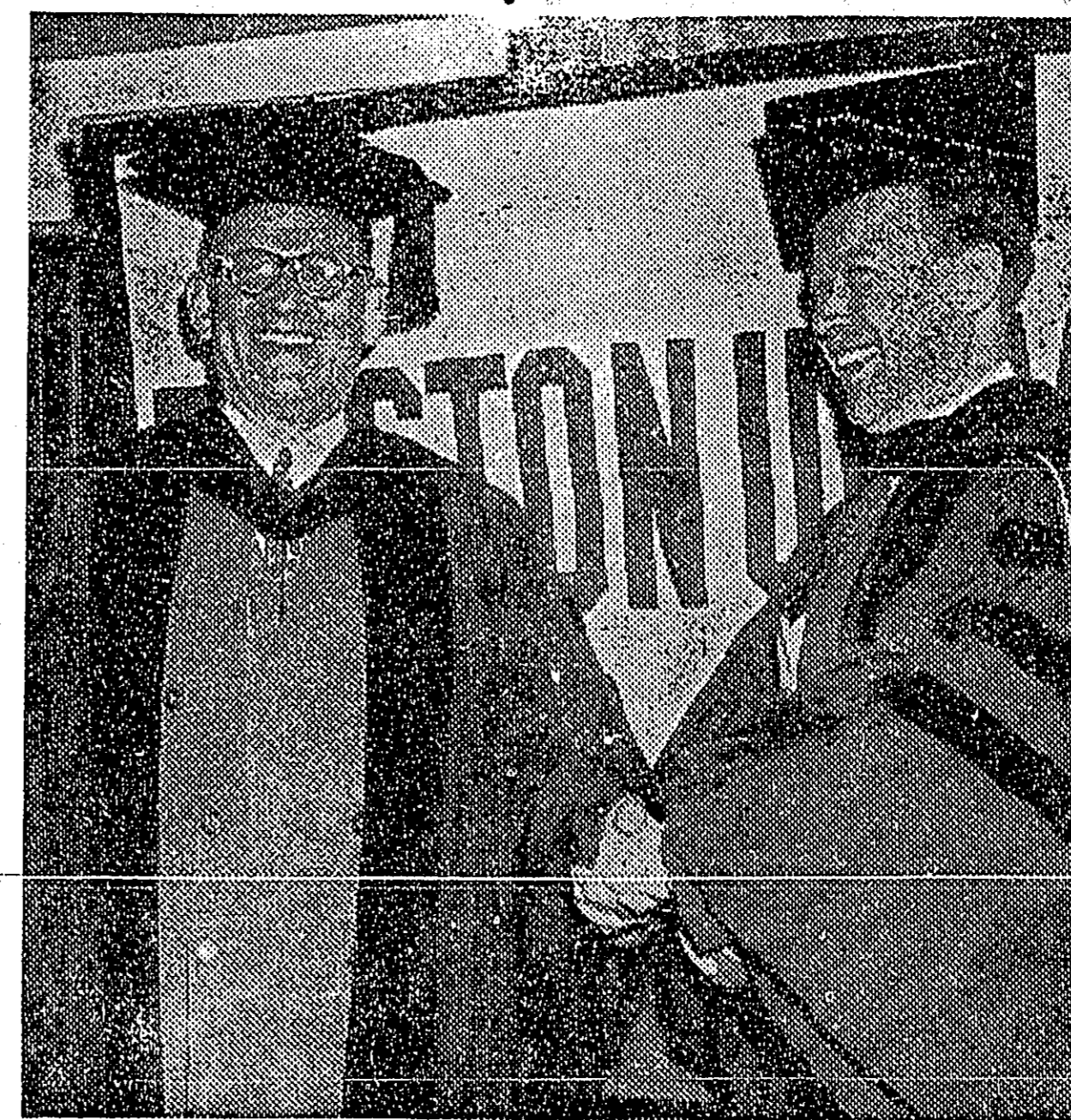
A wage settlement costing the Stupakoff Ceramic and Manufacturing Company nine cents an hour has been won by UE Local 622 at Latrobe, Pa. The union recently trounced the IUE by a vote of 124 to 14 in a Taft-Hartley election. The company had brought in the Carey boys.

#### L. Chester Shannon

L. Chester Shannon, who served seven years as a UE 301 shop steward and Executive Board member, died suddenly last week after a heart attack at his home, Wey Road, Scotia.

He had been re-elected a steward year after year in Buildings 11, 23, and 235. He retired as a steward in December, but continued as an active worker for UE to his death. He was employed by GE for 45 years. He is survived by his wife, one son, a sister, and a grand daughter.

### A Pair of Presidents



President Walter P. Reuther of the United Auto Workers, right, chatting with President Herman W. Steinkraus of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce at recent ceremonies at Boston University where honorary degrees were awarded both men. Reuther is a national CIO leader and one of James B. Carey's bosses.

### Indiana IUE Leaders Must Restore UE Funds

Federal Judge Swigert in Indiana this week found a group of IUE leaders guilty of contempt of court for violating an injunction forbidding them to spend money of UE Local 901 at the Fort Wayne GE plant. The injunction, obtained by UE, stated that the assets of Local 901 belong to UE—Local 901 and not the "imitation UE" which was being set up at the plant.

Dallas Smith, president of the IUE outfit there, was one of the officers found in contempt by Judge Swigert. He is on Carey's top administrative committee. Smith has been using UE money to travel around the country, including Schenectady, for the Carey outfit.

Judge Swigert ordered that the IUE group restore to the UE-901 treasury all the money spent. He directed them either to turn the UE funds over to UE General Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak or to post a bond equal to the \$150,000 assets.

He brushed off as nonsense a theory expounded by a New York State Supreme Court judge recently, Judge Eder, that when UE left CIO it broke its contract with its locals.

### Legislature Ignores Problem of Jobless

When EU News went to press Wednesday it was obvious that the state legislature would adjourn shortly without passing a single bill to improve unemployment insurance.

Labor groups were told by legislators that they shouldn't complain about that, because the legislature also hadn't passed some tough bills, sponsored by employers, to make it harder for jobless workers to get unemployment insurance.

A committee from UE-301 visited Albany recently and urged Senator Thomas F. Campbell to oppose those anti-union bills. In the union delegation were Board Members Helen Quirini, Dewey Brashear, William Mastriani, Fred Pacelli and Emil Voris.



### Members Are Firm On Defending Gains

(Continued from page one)

try for a few weeks. It provides that on partial set-ups, the price will be not less than one-half the full price, and that if it figures three-quarters, the full price will be paid, and that the worker will get the benefit of the doubt. Male also said he would instruct the division not to tighten up on the past policy on payment for re-work.

The shop committee included Shop Stewards Morton Milkins and Roy Schaffer, and J. H. John, J. P. Patierno, and W. D. Lansing. Leo Jandreaux told Male that UE remains the bargaining agent after April 1, and will not tolerate interference by the company or the IUE in handling grievances. He said that if jurisdictional disputes were stirred up by the company recognizing the IUE, the company would be responsible.

To date the company has not given the union its position on the actual detailed machinery for handling of grievances after April 1.

Reports of increased efforts to chisel on piece work prices have come from many parts of the plant, and particularly in Turbine. 301 members are continuing to send letters, postcards and telegrams to Paul Herzog, NLRB chairman at Washington, demanding a speedy GE election.

### New Bus Company Needed, 301 Says

UE-Local 301 went on record again at a Public Service Commission hearing Mar. 13 as opposing any increase in Schenectady Railway Company fares and urging a return to the three-for-a-quarter fare.

Fred Pacelli of the Transportation Committee read the 301 statement charging that the bus company "has failed to live up to its obligations even though every consideration and effort was made to help solve its financial problems."

The statement renewed the request that the City Council take steps to obtain another bus company to operate in the city and revoke the Schenectady Railway Company's franchise.

"Naturally any other company coming into the community must do so having in mind protecting full rights of the union and through it the employees of the transportation company" the 301 statement declared, "so that higher wages and more adequate working conditions may be obtained.