

GE Locals Close Ranks in IUE-CIO To Tackle Company in Negotiations

GE locals are consolidating their ranks in order to take on the company in negotiations.

On Tuesday of this week representatives of 100,000 GE workers got together for the first meeting of the IUE-CIO GE Conference Board since Local 301 disaffiliated. The purpose of the special meeting was to complete Contract modification demands on language.

Local 301 was given full representation. And Local 301 representatives made many suggestions on Contract improvements that were unanimously approved by the entire Conference Board.

That meeting of the Conference Board constituted the first meeting in five years where representatives of more than 100,000 GE workers sat down together, united for negotiations.

Represented were GE plants from Lynn to Los Angeles . . . from Schenectady to Seattle.

The Conference Board adjourned Tuesday night. On Wednesday and Thursday the IUE-CIO Negotiating Committee continued meetings with company representatives on our demands for a substantial wage increase, improved pensions and insurance, an additional paid holiday, equal pay for equal work, and other demands.

The prospect for winning the full measure of our demands in negotiations this year is much better than at any time in the past five years. That is because of the increased bargaining power that results from the unity of 100,000 GE workers.

In the previous five years, Schenectady GE workers have been hurt substantially by UE's weakness nationally. No substantial gains have been made by UE since 1949.

Now the UE is weaker than ever.

Today it represents only about 18,000 GE workers, with Erie its last big local — and it has already petitioned for an election, to give the people a chance to join IUE-CIO.

Not only has UE's weakness nationally hurt GE workers in terms of failure to win their demands, this weakness also constitutes a direct threat to our jobs.

For UE has failed to organize any new GE plants. Therefore, GE's run-away plant program — unless stopped — would mean the eventual removal of much work from Unionized plants in the North.

IUE-CIO has succeeded in organizing these run-away plants. Louisville, Anniston, Linton, Minneapolis and Montreal were all organized by IUE-CIO.

On top of that, in the last year alone IUE-CIO has organized other GE plants that UE had never been able to organize. These are in Philadelphia, Cambridge, Mass.; Auburn, N. Y.; Cleveland, O., and other locations.

Why did these workers join IUE-CIO?

Because they realized that IUE-CIO is the only Union that can unite the entire GE chain. And that is what pays off in wage increases and job security!



LOCALS QUITTING UE GET TOGETHER — Comparing notes on how UE is stalling elections in their plants are these officers of former UE GE Locals now joining IUE-CIO as they took time out for a picture at the IUE-CIO GE Conference Board meeting in New York Tuesday. The Conference Board worked out the final IUE-CIO Contract language demands. Left to right (seated) President Carey; Tuers, vice-president, Bloomfield; Leo Jandreau, 301; Connally, president, New-

ark; Geis, vice-president, Newark; Conference Board Chairman Callahan; (standing) Bill Mastriani and James Cognetta, 301; Purchak, Chief Steward, Newark; Bill Getchell, Erie; Joe Evans, Financial Secretary-treasurer, Bloomfield; John McCarthy, vice-president Newark; and Fred Pacelli, 301. Three other officers of the Newark Local were not present because UE had them tied up in NLRB hearings. Clyde Holmes of the Long Island City Local was not present for the picture, but took part in the afternoon sessions.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 1 — No. 6

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

May 7, 1954

Local 301 Headquarters to Be Major Addition to City



It was a happy crew of Officers and Board members that viewed final plans for our new Headquarters.

As soon as we have our election and get the outsiders off our backs, construction will start on our new Local 301 Headquarters.

Following final approval of plans by the Executive Board at its meeting Monday night, it was announced that bids will be called as soon as the election is over.

This mammoth, modern three-story building that will be erected at the corner of Van Guysling and Edison Avenues, will be the official Union home of 20,000 GE workers.

Not only will this building provide GE workers with a headquarters nearer the plant than our present office at 301 Liberty St., it will also provide us with many

facilities and services that have not been available in the past.

Funds to pay for the building have been set aside from Union dues at the rate of 50c a month since Jan. 1, 1953.

Among the facilities provided by the new headquarters will be:

- An auditorium that will seat 1,800 people. This will give us our own meeting hall large enough to accommodate a mass membership meeting.
- Several group meeting rooms.

UE Ousted in West Virginia

On May 5 workers at the Westinghouse plant in Huntington, W. Va., voted by a 7-to-1 ratio to get out of UE and join IUE-CIO. Formerly Local 607, it was UE's last shop in the entire state of West Virginia.

- A modern banquet hall that will seat 870 people, complete with kitchen and serving room.
- A completely-furnished Welfare Department that will be equipped to provide new and expanded services and assistance to GE workers.
- Complete office space for all Local 301 activities.
- Eight bowling alleys, recreation rooms, locker rooms, lounges, etc.
- Off-street parking facilities.

The Headquarters will be a steel-concrete structure 226 feet by 94 feet by three stories high. It will be modern, air-conditioned and fully equipped to meet the needs of an active and ever-growing Local 301.

Unity of 100,000 GE Workers Means Higher Wages and More Job Security

The Following 56 GE Locals Are United in IUE-CIO

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alameda, Calif. | Everett, Mass. | Minneapolis, Minn. | Schenectady, N. Y. |
| Anniston, Alabama | Fort Wayne, Ind. | Montreal, Quebec | (Main Plant) |
| Auburn, New York | Holyoke, Mass. | (2 Locals) | Schenectady, N. Y. (Knolls 2) |
| Bridgeport, Conn. | Huntingburg, Ind. | New Kensington, Pa. | Schenectady, N. Y. (Maqua) |
| (2 Locals) | Irvington, N. J. | Newark, N. J. | Seattle, Wash. |
| Bridgeville, Pa. | Johnstown, Pa. | New York, N. Y. | Springfield, N. J. |
| Bucyrus, Ohio | Lachine, Quebec | Oakland, Calif. | Syracuse, N. Y. |
| Cambridge, Mass. | Linton, Ind. | Oakville, Ontario | Tell City, Ind. |
| Charleston, W. Va. | Long Beach, Calif. | Peterborough, Ontario | Toronto, Ontario |
| Cleveland, Ohio | Long Island City, N. Y. | Philadelphia, Pa. (2 Locals) | Tranton, N. J. |
| Clifton, N. J. | Los Angeles, Calif. | Pittsburgh, Pa. | Wabash, Ind. |
| Coburg, Ontario | Louisville, Ky. | Pittsfield, Mass. (2 Locals) | Warren, Ohio |
| DeKalb, Illinois | Lynn, Mass. | Providence, R. I. | Waterford, N. Y. |
| Euclid, Ohio | Milwaukee, Wis. | Quebec City, Quebec | Youngstown, Ohio |

Boulware Sees Union-Busting Victory in Sight

Today the United States Senate is debating amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act.

Spurred on by all the financial power of the General Electric Company and the philosophical madness of L. R. Boulware, the Senate is moving to put through legislation so vicious that it could wipe out half the Unions in America and reduce those remaining to ineffectiveness.

Ever since Boulware took over the department of "Employee Relations" for GE he has been doing everything he could to wreck Unions.

He has spent millions of dollars in newspaper ads and other wasted ways peddling his special brand of Union-hating propaganda. Just last week Boulware took up another full page in the Works News plugging his special ideas on labor legislation.

In this splurge Boulware writes about such things as "featherbedding".

What Boulware really considers "featherbedding" is when a worker has a decent 8-hour job free from speed-up. He doesn't consider "featherbedding" such things as his foremen are pulling in the Turbine Bearing job where two men are watching one man work in an attempt to cut prices.

Boulware's real aim is to tear down all the gains Unions have built up for the last 20 years and return to the bread lines of 1929. Boulware would be performing a much more worthwhile service if he would spend a little time studying the problems of GE workers instead of spending all his time and millions of dollars trying to wreck their Unions.

Victory in Bldg. 69

As a result of a grievance handled by Local 301 Board Member Vince DiLorenzo, Brother A. Laudato of Bldg. 69 today has an assembly job.

Laudato was laid off for lack of work. The company offered him only office service and punch press work.

He filed his grievance to maintain a proper bump-on-assembly. DiLorenzo was designated to handle the case and as a result of a meeting he held in Bldg. 41 Brother Laudato was placed on the assembly job.

Local 301 Carries Demand For Early Election to Capitol

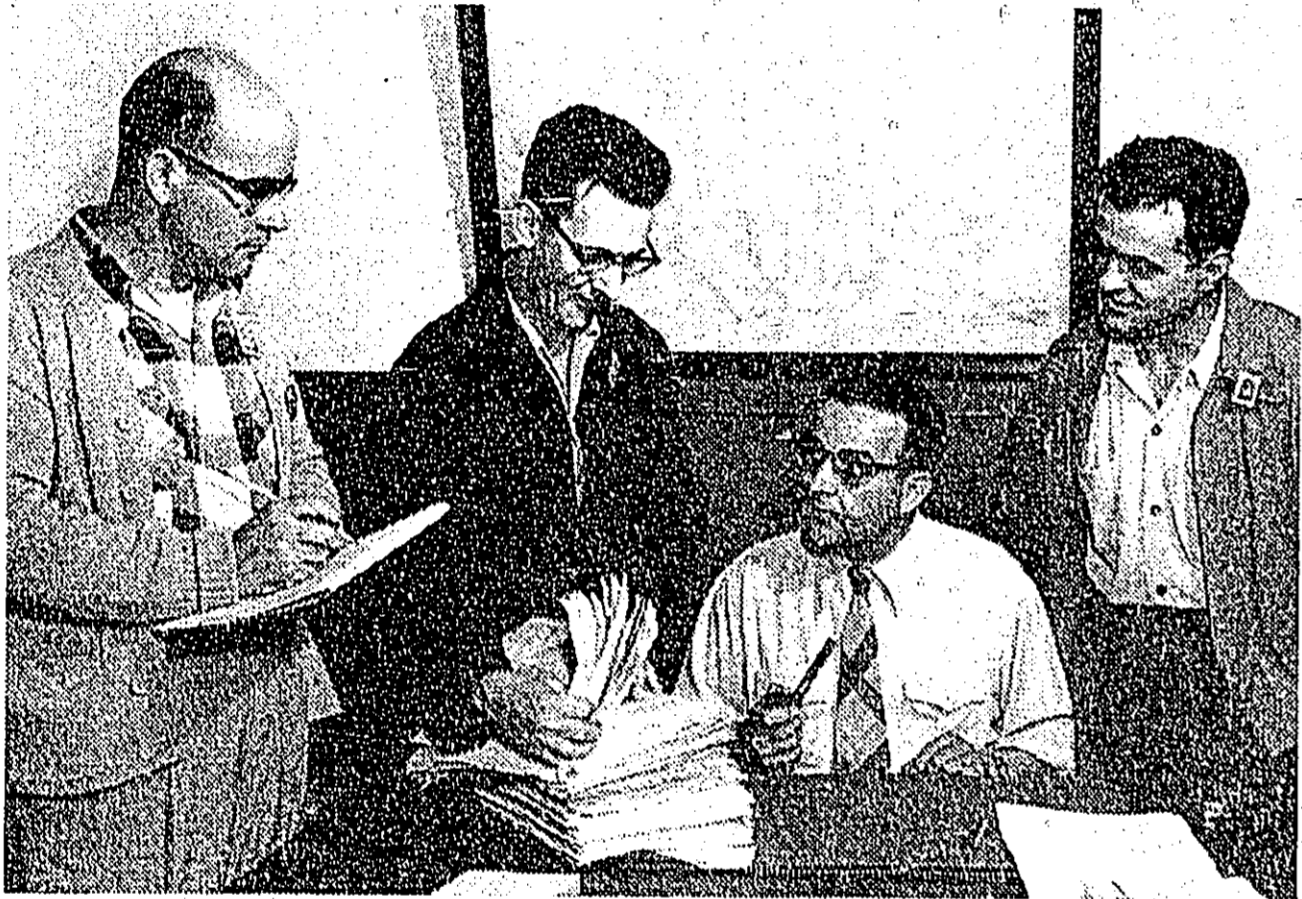
Yesterday a delegation of IUE-CIO Local 301 leaders went to Washington and presented the NLRB with petitions signed by more than 12,000 workers repeating our demand for an immediate election.

These petitions were signed in the shop last week. They show that GE workers have not changed from the beginning when they signed more than 12,000-strong to get out of UE and unite in IUE-CIO.

GE workers want the election so we can get the outsiders off our neck and get back to the job of enforcing our Contract without disruption and interference. Also, vacations start in June and if UE continues to refuse to consent it will be denying some GE workers the right to vote.

On April 26 Local 301's Officers and Executive Board sent a telegram to NLRB Chairman Guy Farmer presenting the facts in this regard. On April 29 the NLRB replied that it had received the telegram and is doing "everything possible" to have an early election.

It is hoped that the delegation's personal visit to the Board will help impress upon them the importance of speedy action.



The delegation to the NLRB finish counting the 12,000 petitions before leaving for Washington. L to R—Bill Garrison, Harry Williams, Leo Jandreau, and Joe Alois.

301-On the Job

Bldg. 29: Sophie Prizner has been laid off for lack of work and has selected Board Member Williams to take up her case for suitable offers.

Bldg. 69: Group under Steward J. Macherone protest the assigning of a set up man to perform work of the regular operator prior to regular starting time on 1st shift, in addition he is also receiving the bulk of overtime. Union demands this situation be corrected.

Bldg. 73A: Group #4 under Steward W. Garrison are protesting the change of prices and set up values on cabinet control cases. The standard practice over the years has been to price different groups and modifications separately including set ups for various groups. Union demands old method of pricing jobs separately be restored.

Bldg. 269: Wm. Costick has selected Board Member Gray to handle his case to be returned to his former job. Supervision is attempting to break in a shorter service employee on the job Costick was recently laid off from.

Bldg. 285: H. Peniston has chosen Board Member Lando to handle his case involving improper time study. Standard prices should remain in effect on job 9043699.

Knolls: Board Member Villano will take up case of A. Rounds who has been laid off in violation of seniority according to Contract.

IUE-CIO Pushes GE to End 'Slow-Motion Sessions'

During the past week representatives of 100,000 GE workers in IUE-CIO have continued negotiating with GE on our demands for a substantial wage increase and Contract improvements.

In this week the IUE-CIO negotiators proved dramatically how able GE is to pay a good increase this year. They did it by showing that:

Last year GE's officers voted the 650 top executives Stock Options worth \$35,000,000. But the wage increase that GE gave its 220,000 production, maintenance and office employees only amounted to \$31,000,000.

Other facts presented to GE officials showed how luxuriously the company is treating its management people, while it is providing less and less for the people who do the work.

As usual, GE is trying to drag out the negotiations.

But this year, because GE must bargain with 100,000 workers, it is finding it harder and harder to stall. As we go to press, the IUE-CIO negotiators are demanding that GE stop the nonsense and get down to business.

Seniority Enforced

Kathryn Hebert starts back to work in Bldg. 273 Monday morning, because she had an effective Local like 301 on the job for her.

Sister Hebert was injured while working in Bldg. 48 in June of 1951. She was out of work for 2½ years, during which time Local 301 won approximately \$2,500 for her in disability payments.

After she recovered sufficiently to return to work the company refused to re-hire her on grounds she had broken her service. She filed a grievance with Local 301 and Board Member Townsend was designated to handle the case. The grievance was won and her service is restored.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS

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Looking at the Outsiders—

JOE INFANTE — Known as "The Thief from Philadelphia"

Another of the UE outsiders who is in Schenectady harrasing GE workers is Joe Infante. So that all GE workers will know what kind of a guy he is, here is Joe Infante's record:

● He was kicked out of his own Local in Philadelphia after his Local found he had not turned in money he had collected from unorganized workers.

● Today he is facing trial in Rochester because he evaded payment of bills he ran up in Buffalo.

● He was run out of Buffalo because the workers there wanted nothing to do with him.

In 1941-42, Infante worked in the Proctor Electric plant in Philadelphia. He was never a good enough Union man to even be elected an Officer in his own local.



Joe Infante

But, for certain reasons, Matles liked him. So Infante was made a UE organizer.

In 1944-45, Infante was supposed to organize the Schwartz-Proctor plant, also in Philly, which was the par-

ent plant of Proctor Electric. In 1947 the Proctor local became fed up with UE and Infante's inability, so it sent a group of Local leaders up to S-P to do the job.

The leaders who went there found out that although Infante had collected initiation fees from more than 100 workers, he had never turned the money in. They never found out what he did with it.

Immediately Local 136 expelled Infante because it also discovered that he was more than a year behind in payment of his dues.

To this day the Schwartz-Proctor plant is unorganized, simply because they think that because Infante took their money all Union leaders are "crooks."

As a result Infante was run

out of Philadelphia. But instead of firing him, UE shuffled him off to Buffalo.

There, along with Mike Jiminez (another UE outsider now in Schenectady) he ran up bills for \$741.28 to Leonard Krawczyk in 1949-50. In spite of many requests for payment, Infante would not pay the bills.

So finally on May 4, 1953, Krawczyk had to sue Infante to recover payment. Infante still hasn't paid the bills, and his court trial is scheduled for hearing in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Rochester on May 18.

Now he is in Schenectady begging GE workers for a chance to take over Local 301. No wonder that to the people who know him at the gates he is known as the "Thief From Philadelphia!"

UE News Admits UE Is Lying

Because UE is so bankrupt that it doesn't have a single argument on its side, it is continuing to peddle lies to GE workers.

IUE-CIO nailed the lies about "lose your seniority," "lose your piece-work protection," and all the other lies UE has used. Now UE has drummed up another phony—that in IUE-CIO we will not have the right to vote on strikes or acceptance of Contracts.

This is a lie and it is proved by UE's own paper—the UE News.

A year ago the UE News (see cut below) printed a story in which it admitted that IUE-CIO members never go out on strike unless the locals authorize a strike by a vote of the membership. The UE News story was prompted by a letter from Joe Dermody to IUE-CIO.

At the time, Dermody was

asking IUE-CIO to join UE in UE's phony brand of "programmatic unity." For three years in a row GE workers all over the country refused to accept that kind of a deal because they wanted no part of the UE.

UE was all for unity then. Now, when GE workers finally have the chance of realizing unity UE is here in Schenectady with some 300 other paid hacks trying to prevent them from uniting.

This shows that the leaders of UE don't really want GE workers to have unity. All the UE outsiders want is to protect the quarter of a million dollars in per-capita that Local 301 had been paying to them so they can protect their own jobs!

For the outsiders realize that when the election is over, it means the end of UE.

Already more than 400,000 workers have voted to get out of UE and into IUE-CIO. And now since Local 301 has disaffiliated, Newark, Bloomfield, Long Island City have also disaffiliated, while other GE locals in Erie, Cincinnati, Scranton and elsewhere have petitioned for elections so they can do the same.

The following letter, renewing the UE's call for joint action of GE workers in support of their just demands, was sent to John Callahan, Chairman of the GE Conference Board of IUE-CIO, on April 7, 1953, by Joe Dermody, Secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE.

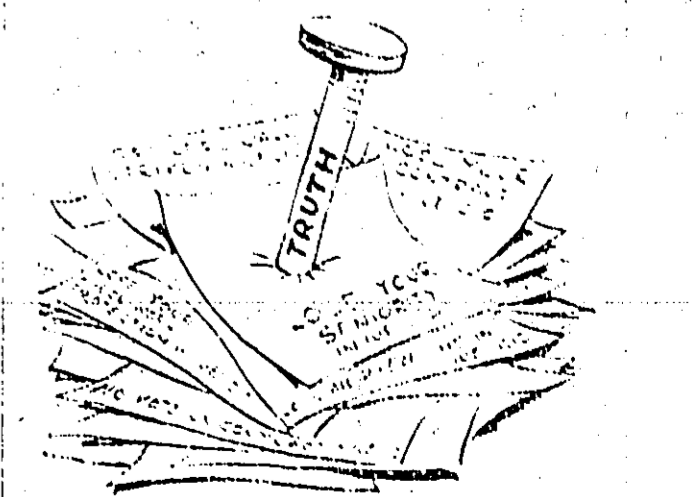
Dear Sir and Brother:
On February 7, the GE Conference Board of UE addressed to Unions representing the General Properties Company a letter in which we stated our ambition to take on its w...
any union. We note that the national headquarters of IUE-CIO has called for a strike vote in the GE plants where IUE-CIO is collective bargaining agent.
Obviously, the best interests of GE workers require that Unions...

Board Reports Show It's IUE-CIO Overwhelmingly

The regular meeting of the Local 301 IUE-CIO Executive Board Monday night shows that Schenectady GE workers continue to be overwhelmingly behind their elected Local leadership's move to unite GE workers.

Every Board Member reported that he is getting more and more inquiries as to how soon we can have the election. Practically everyone who asks about the election, the reports showed, is sick and tired of UE's stalling.

Already UE has had more than eight weeks to present a program. It has presented nothing but smears, lies and confusion. Because it is such a bankrupt outfit, it has nothing to offer GE workers.



NAILED!