



St. Johnsbury, Vt. — The New England town meeting, traditional form of democratic government in the area, was really democratic in St. Johnsbury this year, thanks to UE Local 234. In recent years, the town fathers had taken to holding the meetings during the day so that only business men and executives could attend. Taking a lesson from their own union meetings which are held when everybody can attend, the UE members at the Fairbanks Morse Co. launched a campaign for night town meetings. One hundred members of the local and 30 wives of members took time off from work to attend the afternoon gathering. Immediately one of the group moved to change the meeting time. When the later session was held, the local army was packed to the rafters. About 1,000 people turned out for the largest, most democratic town meeting on record.

Louisville — Four AFL leaders here have been suspended from their jobs in the latest step in the "reign of terror" against all unions being conducted by Louisville corporations. The suspended four are employed by B. F. Goodrich in a synthetic rubber plant. Similar action has been taken against UE leaders at the 5,000-member International Harvester plant. UE is attempting to organize the new Louisville GE plant.

Madison, Wis. — UE locals in Wisconsin this week were fighting a proposal in the state legislature, which would reduce compensation benefits for injuries bringing about a loss of hearing. It was estimated that the bill would cut payments to about 1,000 workers.

New York — The CIO American Newspaper Guild voted this week to make an all-out fight against the firing of a Boston United Press reporter who refused to cooperate with the House un-American witch-hunters. The reporter had refused to answer questions about his political affiliations on the grounds that they violated the rights guaranteed under the fifth amendment of the Bill of Rights.

Hamilton, Ontario — UE Local 520 has won the highest minimum male labor rate in the Hamilton area in a contract just concluded with the United Carr Pastener Co. The rate, \$1.49 1/2 an hour, is 5 1/2% higher than the scale in Hamilton's basic steel shops.

Board Votes Support for Striking Menands AFL Workers After Leaders Make Appeal

A personal appeal for support by the president of a striking AFL local in Menands brought a pledge of full support from the UE Local 301 executive board Monday night. As a first token of the Schenectady union's backing for the striking workers, the board voted a \$100 donation, and then dug down in their pockets for an additional \$35 in personal contributions.

The support appeal was made by President Ralph Candler of Local 526 of the AFL structural iron workers. His union was forced out on strike by the Albany Steel and Iron Co. in Menands six weeks ago.

Candler, who headed a 3-man delegation to the board, told of the company's attempts to destroy existing conditions, which led to the first strike by the Menands workers in 15 years. He said that the strike had been directly caused by the company's breaking off of negotiations and complete refusal to bargain with the workers.

Among the company demands which caused the walkout was one for unlimited and compulsory overtime. Others would abolish existing sick leave and destroy seniority rights.

For its part, the union was seeking a health and hospitalization insurance plan, the posting of work rules so that workers could not be fired for violating regulations which they did not know existed, super seniority for shop stewards and an adequate call-back period following layoffs.

He noted that the company had offered a 15c hourly wage boost so that the pay question was not directly involved in the strike. Rates at the striking plant now range from \$1.25 to \$1.53 an hour.

Since Albany Steel and Iron supplies GE with material, one of the first steps planned by the 801 executive board to back the strikers is a guarantee that no supplies from the struck shop would be unloaded or handled by UE members.

Autoworkers Gain

General Motors and Ford workers this week scored their first major break under the 5-year contracts which have been hobbling their efforts to maintain decent wage levels and working conditions.

First break was scored in GM, where the CIO autoworkers were able to renegotiate contract provisions so that skilled workers will get a 10c hourly increase, and 10c of the 24c an hour in cost of living increases will be on the wage scales.

Ford workers also won increased pensions so that the monthly level will now reach \$137.50, including federal social security. In addition, the annual improvement factor in both pacts was raised from 4c to 5c an hour.

Leaflets Hit GE Threat to Seniority

The threat posed to the seniority provisions of the UE-GE contract by the company's "no collective bargaining" attitude was stressed this week in two leaflets distributed by UE Local 301 at the Schenectady works.

A leaflet issued by the local on Wednesday morning was titled, "Is MY Job Safe?" It pointed out that job security was a reality only as long as full plant-wide seniority was guaranteed.

From that point, the leaflet went on to show that seniority had to be protected in day-by-day grievance negotiations with the management. It asserted that there were already signs that the company's refusal to negotiate in good faith on the national level was spreading down to the local grievance level, menacing these vital negotiations.

In a leaflet issued by the national office on Monday, the seniority question was tied in with the company's huge profits. This leaflet showed that GE, along with the other big corporations throughout the country, was making an all-out drive to destroy seniority protections. This drive, the circular stated, was aimed at giving management a free hand to pile up ever greater profits by speeding up workers and laying off without regard to length of service.

In order to do this, GE has been using the "temporary" layoff gimmick to evade seniority provisions of the contract. Another threat to the job security of the workers stems from the "runaway" shops—plants built by GE and other companies in non-union, low-wage areas.

Both leaflets cited instances of GE attacks on seniority in plants from New York to California. Mentioned were the violations of seniority at the heart of the UE strike in Scranton and the IUE-CIO strike in Syracuse, and recent attacks on the seniority of UE members in the GE plant in Ontario, California.

This week's leaflet distribution was marred by an incident in which a car, believed to be driven by a non-union employee, deliberately swerved into Chief Shop Steward Bill Mastriani as he gave out the leaflets at the Rice Road and North Avenue plant gate. Mastriani jumped out of the way, but was hit on the arm by the auto. He was able to continue distribution. The union leader has filed a complaint over the incident with the Rotterdam police.

Open Joint Drive
A joint drive by 2 AFL unions, the teamsters and the machinists, to organize auto repair shops throughout the country was launched this week.



WHAT ARE YOU GRIPING ABOUT?...IT'S FREE, AINT IT?

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

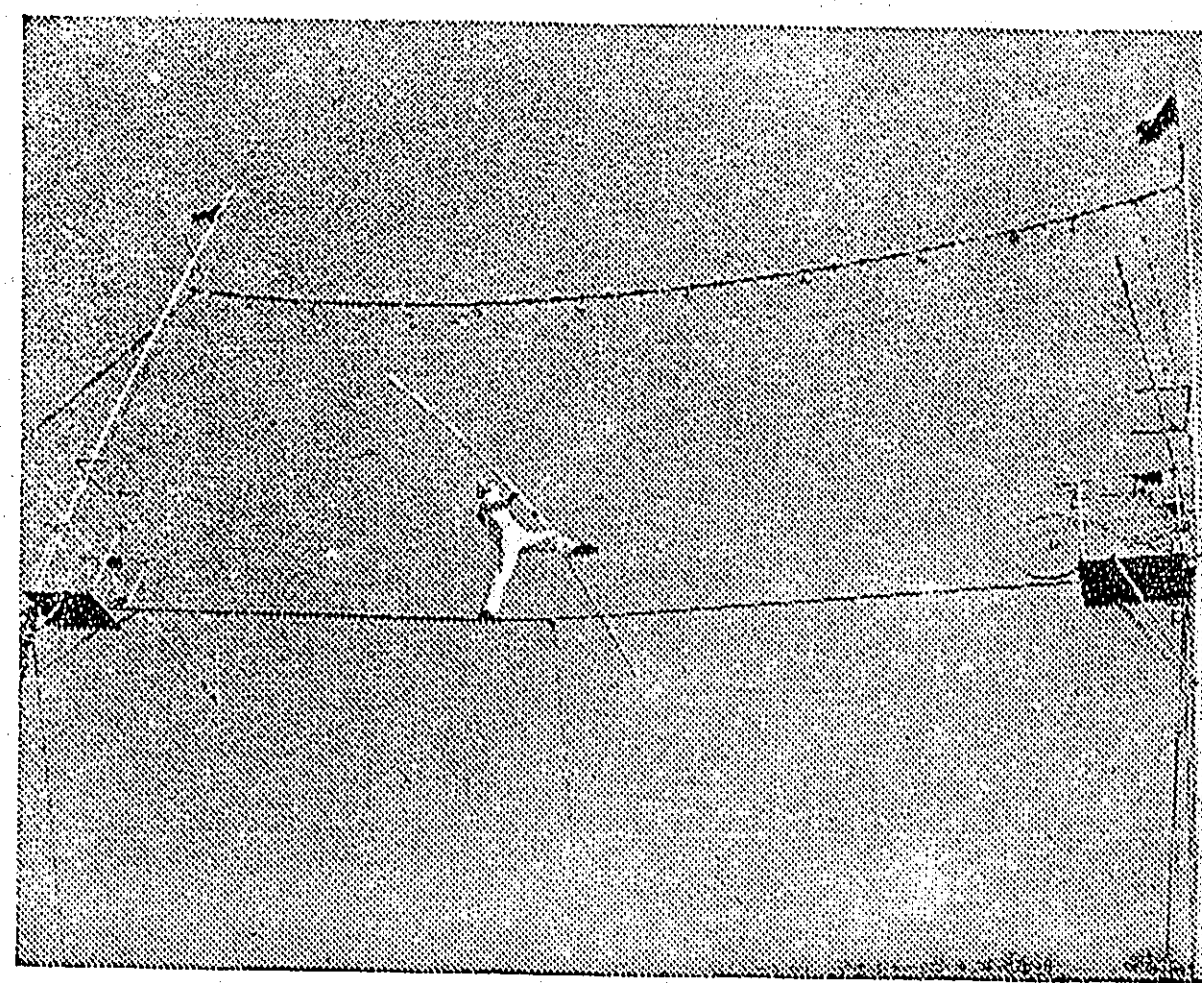
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 11 — No. 23

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, June 5, 1953



HIGH FLYING. Frank Cook, well-known comic aerialist, will be one of the featured entertainers at the UE Local 301 Field Day on June 28. Cook is pictured in his act above.

Field Day Tickets Go at Record Rate

Record sales during the first week in which the tickets were in the shop strongly indicated that UE Local 301's 1953 Field Day would be the biggest such event ever held in Schenectady. The field day will take place on Sunday, June 28, at Republican Park on the Princetown Road.

Sale of the tickets at the low 3 for 50c price was spurred by the \$2,500 worth of prizes which ticket holders will be eligible to win in the giveaway drawing at the field day. Heading the prize booty will be a 7 cubic foot GE freezer which retails for \$300. The complete list of prizes appears at the end of this story.

One of the chief problems facing the activities committee, which is in charge of running the field day, is the need for volunteer help on the actual day of the event. Local members are urged to offer their services for a few hours in order to assure the smooth operation of the entire program. Forms on which to volunteer are available from either the shop stewards or at the union hall.

As for the program itself, it will include several top professional stage acts, wrestling matches, carnival games, a little league baseball game, and, of course, the big giveaway drawing. In addition to the regular giveaway prizes, there will be a special gate award valued at \$125. This will be won by some lucky youngster under 12 years of age.

Refreshments will be sold at the field day at cost, as they were last year.

The complete prize list with values in parenthesis:

- 1—Seven cubic foot GE freezer (\$300);
- 2—GE "Stewardess" electric range (\$260);
- 3—12 foot aluminum boat (\$240);
- 4—GE table television (\$200);
- 5—Lauson outboard motor (\$125);
- 6—Revere motion picture projector (\$125);
- 7—Power lawn mower (\$110);
- 8—Wilson golf clubs and bag (\$100);
- 9—Singer portable sewing machine (\$95);
- 10—Underwood portable typewriter (\$75);
- 11—Westinghouse floor waxer (\$70);

(Continued on page 2)

UE Wins Women's Boost, As Hopes Rise for Skilled

Major progress on one of the key negotiations issues, and indications that GE management may be preparing to make concessions on a second union demand were reported this week by UE negotiators following a national bargaining session in New York City.

The progress was scored in the drive to end discrimination against women workers. Actually, the gains were not scored in the wage talks themselves, but were made in discussions of Schenectady grievances at the management level.

GE agreed to raise the rates on 60 jobs involving 300 women. The increases ranged from 3c to 15c an hour, and brought the rates on many women's jobs above the common labor level, a major national demand of UE.

All of this was done as part of a survey of most women's jobs demanded by UE. This survey is continuing and is likely to bring more increases before it is concluded.

Easing of the company's "no bargaining" attitude was strongly indicated in the talks on UE demands for a special wage increase for skilled workers. However, at the close of the bargaining session, the problem of defining skilled jobs was still under discussion. A further UE-GE meeting is slated for next week. The exact date has not yet been set.

UE Local 301 is also fighting for higher rates for skilled workers through a mass grievance filed with Schenectady works management. Full details of this grievance are reported in a separate story on page 4.

The definite improvement in the company's attitude in negotiations, a change marked by something approaching real collective bargaining, undoubtedly results from the show of united support for the UE negotiators put forth by Schenectady GE workers in their recent demonstration walkout.

Slate AO & S Party

A combined meeting and social will be held by union members in the Aeronautics and Ordnance division one week from Wednesday.

The affair is slated for Wednesday, June 17 at 8 p.m. in the union hall. Tickets will cost 50c each, and can be purchased from AO & S shop stewards.

Mica Workers Appeal to UE

A new appeal by Mica Insulator Co. workers to UE has spurred an organizing effort at the Broadway plant. The appeal came last month when many Mica employees told union organizers that they were fed up with company union conditions.

Backing their appeal to UE, many of the workers signed cards asking for an NLRB election. The union already has more than enough cards to petition for such a vote.

In an election last year, UE came close to winning the 700-worker plant. A shift of only 50 votes would have ousted the company union. As it was, only an all-out intimidation campaign by the company saved the company union.

However, since then conditions at Mica have grown worse, workers broken. A sell-out contract signed shortly after the election disgusted many who had supported the company union in order to "give it one last chance."

In order to guarantee a crushing defeat for the company union, UE Local 301 members with relatives and friends in Mica are urged to tell them about UE conditions, and urge them to unite with the 20,000 GE workers by signing UE cards.

UE Crushes Raids In 5 More Shops

UE has crushed CIO and AFL raids in 5 more shops during recent weeks. Workers in these plants voted by large margins to maintain UE as their union despite intensive red-baiting attacks in all of the locations.

UE's biggest victory was scored in Chicago where Local 1150 ran up better than 5 to 1 margins over each of 2 raiding outfits. This election was at the Cinch Manufacturing Co. plant, with both the IUE-CIO and AFL autoworkers making the attempt to disrupt. The vote was UE 580; IUE-CIO 122; UAW-AFL 119; and no union 98.

Two other big victories were scored in the Midwest. UE Local 35 in Cleveland crushed an IUE raid at Picker X-ray by the one-sided vote of 251 to 112. Complete support for UE by Picker's large core of women workers was largely responsible for the margin.

In Sheboygan, Wisconsin, UE crushed the AFL autoworkers by a vote of 127 to 59 in a vote at the Polar Ware Co.

Two eastern victories were also chalked up. At the North Bros. plant in Philadelphia, an all-out red-baiting drive, featuring with-hunt hearings by the House Un-Americans, proved useless. UE Local 155 won the shop by a vote of 124 to 104 for the AFL firemen and oilers.

In New Bedford, Mass., UE retained bargaining rights for Eastern Electric workers in a unique vote which saw the petitioning union, the AFL building service workers, fail to gain a single vote.

Field Day Prizes

(Continued from page 1)

12—Honor craft aluminium ware (\$70); 13—GE floor circulator (\$67); 14—Red leather easy rocker (\$50).

15—Westinghouse electric oven (\$50); 16—53-piece dinner service for 8 (\$50); 17—Alcamaic deep fryer (\$40); 18—Brunswick bowling ball and bag (\$31); 19—Fishing tackle, glass rod and reel (\$30); 20—GE radio alarm (\$30); 21—Winchell spinning reel (\$29).

22—Arvin portable electric heater (\$22); 23—Double bed spread (\$20); 24—Matson 6-piece vanity set (\$20); 25—Revere 7-piece copper bottom starter cooking set (\$16); 26—West Bend automatic electric percolator (\$14); 27—Revere 3-piece mixing bowl set (\$10); 28—Detecto white bathroom scale (\$7).

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UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 16: Carl Barkman, Michael Figliola, Royce Patterson and Theodore Rucinski protest the completely inadequate \$8.05 price on an engine in the operation. The union demands that management investigate this price and make the proper adjustment.

Bldg. 17: Harold Schrader is classified as a maintenance and repair man working on adjusting and modifying dies. This work belongs strictly in the B toolmaking classification. The union demands that Schrader be classified as a B toolmaker with proper rate adjustment.

Group working under Foreman Maliszewski protests unsafe conditions created by presence of No. 5 boxes next to high speed presses. The steward has repeatedly taken this matter up without getting any satisfaction. Recently a worker came within inches of receiving a serious injury. In the light of this, the union demands that management immediately correct this situation.

Bldg. 19: By oral agreement, all blanking jobs on press 6 were given a \$1.60 per thousand rate because of the age of the machine and the difficulty in operating it. Recently 2 drawings were issued with a \$1.25 per thousand price in violation of agreement. The union demands adjustment of these prices and future adherence to the agreement.

Bldg. 26: Battery truck operators under Foreman Russo are performing lifts of more than 6'. This work is classified as high tiering elsewhere. The union demands that this group be given the high tiering classification and rate.

Bldg. 28: Group under Foreman Maliszewski objects to his performance of production and tapping machine work in violation of contract. The union demands that these jobs be kept where they belong, in the group under the bargaining unit.

Group under Maliszewski protest his unjust methods of forcing operators to account for the number of pieces each produces daily. The union demands that this practice be stopped immediately.

Groups under Foreman Abbot and Larsen protest unsafe working conditions in their areas. Trays are piled high in the aisles; dollies are left in the aisles and methods used in cleaning solder pots constitute safety hazards. The union demands management action to correct these conditions.

Group assembling and connecting 5H6 stator special 3240009 protest the \$30 per hundred pieces as inadequate. The operators are suffering losses in earnings. The union demands a time study to establish a proper price on this job.

Bldg. 46: William Russell, a B drill press operator, protested the inadequate 27c price on a job. As a result, supervision agreed to a 35c rate. However, subsequently the same job was issued at 27c, with supervision forcing the use of a torque wrench to justify the inadequate rate. The union demands a normal time study without torque wrench to arrive at the proper rate for the job.

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.

A Crystal Lake grinder was recently given an 87c timing rate, although the skills involved merited a much greater rate. The union demands that the job be moved 2 steps up to 97c T.R.

Bldg. 52: A Colandra protests the price changes on standards for jobs 170-3710-195-BB-970-2 & 3. These changes violated contract article VI-5d. The union demands management investigation and correction of this situation.

W. Harrington asks payment for 3 1/2 hours lost when he was unable to perform assigned work because no surface grinder was available. The union demands that management pay waiting time.

Group of chippers protests plans to add new employees. This will inevitably cause a loss in earnings. In just 3 days of one week, chippers from the group were farmed out for a total of 88 hours. One chipper has been working 6 days as a crane follower. The union demands that these workers be kept intact without any additions to the group, and that supervision be instructed to assign them their own work, while assigning new personnel to groups which are short, and which have needed help from farmed-out workers.

Assembly group protests addition of new help when there is already a lack of work; lack of service help; safety hazards created by this lack of porters; and safety hazards growing out of lack of floor space. A commitment to correct this last situation in the "near future" was made in the "distant past." The union demands immediate correction of all of these conditions.

Bldg. 60: Paul Satterlee is classified as an accumulator but is being used as a tallyman. The union demands proper reclassification and rate adjustment.

Group of special welders protests the addition of grinding to their duties. This work properly belongs to chippers and grinders. The union demands that it be so assigned. Group of assemblers protests addition of new employees to their group although lack of work already exists; inadequate crane service with only 1 crane to service stacking and welding group; crowding which creates safety hazards and which could be corrected by moving Bldg. 16 machines back to that building; and failure to eliminate safety hazards of oily floors and steel shavings in the floor slots despite repeated protests. The union demands immediate correction of these situations.

Bldg. 66: M. O. Blanchard protests the inadequate price on stator

job 154-D-422. On the basis of 1st 28 hours on the job, the indications were that average earnings at this price would be 60c an hour. The union demands that management immediately investigate and correct this price.

J. B. Novak protest inadequate price for welding on 144-C-142. After payment to 1st shift operator for his time, only \$13 remains, making payment approximately 68c an hour. A time study was promised and adjustments made on 2 similar jobs. The union demands that this job be properly adjusted.

Bldg. 69: Helen Capra has been promised a permanent assignment since January, but none has been made. She is constantly being moved from one job to another. This is the first time she has been a victim of such treatment in 23 years at GE. The union demands an immediate and permanent assignment for this worker.

Punch press group under Foreman Regnier protest the inadequate 8c timing rate on B-15-38. All other punch press work in this area has an 87c T.R. The union demands the 87c rate for this job.

Bldg. 269: M. Dorsch is in charge of an A stockroom on 2nd shift. However, he is only classified as a C stockroom keeper. The union demands that he be upgraded. Frank Smith and Henrik Mortensen do the specialized work of metal spinners and should be classified as such. The union demands that they be given their proper job rating.

Group asks the job definition for exhaust operators under Foreman F. Carey. They also ask that William Edwards be rated as an A exhaust operator since he is doing the work of this classification. He had been promised the upgrade by the previous foreman but did not receive it. The union demands that management comply with both of these requests.

Bldg. 273: Salvatore Macherone is classified as a leader with a job rate of \$1.64 1/2. His group includes laborers, special laborers and concrete finishers. The latter have a \$1.64 job rate. Under contract article VI-7, the leader is entitled to a rate 2 steps above workers in his group. The union demands that Macherone be given the \$1.73 3/8 rate to which he is entitled.

Entire inspectors group protests manner in which upgrading is being handled, that is without regard to service. As an example, one man with 12 years service was by-passed for upgrading to A in favor of a man with only 5 years. The union demands adherence to seniority provisions of the contract.

Bldg. 285: Group under Foreman Lawrence protest utilization of day and piece workers to operate turner. This job should have a regular turner operator for safety's sake. The union demands assignment of such an operator. Racetrack: Assemblers protest being ordered to do work belonging to electrical groups. This includes mounting of motors, switch boxes and transformers. The union demands that this work be assigned to electrical groups.



"NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... YOU'VE GOT ALONG WITH HIM SO FAR!"

Bldg. 273 Man May Lose Foot Because of Speedup Accident

Overcrowded conditions combined with a supervision speedup have resulted in an accident which may cost a Building 273 worker a foot. Victim of the accident was Hans Grosse,

a C Bay worker now in Ellis Hospital where doctors are fighting to save his foot. The foot was crushed under a 262 lb. stud which fell from a job crane. Nine bones in the worker's foot were either broken or crushed.

Grosse probably could have gotten out of the way of the falling stud except for the crowded floor conditions which made it impossible for him to step back. Shop Steward James Brown had been fighting unsuccessfully to force the company to take care of this safety hazard. In fact, the condition still has not been corrected.

However, unsafe overcrowding wasn't the whole story. Speedup was equally responsible. Supervision recently converted the drilling of deep hole stud job on which Grosse worked from day work to piece work, but the price had been so tight that the workers couldn't make out.

Undoubtedly, this contributed greatly to the faulty crane lift which may cost Hans Grosse his foot. But crushed feet don't show in the company profit statements.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Stewards' Role and Union Gains Aired over WTRY

A roundup of the duties of a UE Local 301 shop steward, and a comparison between conditions in the GE Schenectady works before and since the union was organized were featured in this week's UE on the Air radio broadcasts over WTRY.

The task of defining the duties of the stewards for the public was undertaken Monday by Chief Shop Steward Bill Mastriani. Mastriani pointed out that a 5-minute broadcast only gave time to touch a few of the high spots, such as the processing of grievances and the maintaining of the ties between the union leadership and the rank and file in the shops. "Our shop stewards are the heart of the union," Mastriani told his radio audience.

As for the contrast between open shop and union conditions, this was handled by Ben Gabriel of Building 40, a worker with 29 years of service. Gabriel told of how he had come to GE in 1923, and received 40c an hour on his first job. "Then," Gabriel said, "everything from the time you came into the shop until you left was favoritism—upgrading, good jobs, layoffs, everything."

Gabriel then described the tight seniority guarantees which now protect workers from this favoritism. He also noted that when he came to GE, making a complaint about conditions was practically signing your own discharge notice, while now the UE grievance machinery is set up just to handle workers' complaints.

The programs are heard at 6:45 in the morning every day, Monday through Friday.

Youngster Tells 'What Union Means'

A 13-year-old son of a Uler, W. Va., oil worker won the \$100 first prize in an essay contest sponsored by the Oil Workers Intl. Union (CIO) for children of its members.

Prize-winner Homer Lee Conley's father is a member of Clendenin, W. Va., Local 628 and is employed by United Fuel Gas Co.

"Let me tell you what the union has done for my daddy," Homer wrote. "In 1940, the year I was born, Dad worked on WPA. He got only three days work a week, \$2.50 a day, \$7.50 a week. He had to walk better than six miles to his work and back home, which made better than 12 miles walking a day. He lived on rented ground. He couldn't even afford a milk cow or a hog."

"In 1951 Dad joined the AFL union and he went to work on a job at \$60 a week. While working, Dad was able to buy a farm and four milk cows. When the job was finished, Dad was out of work. His debts began to go up; he lost some of his cows. Because Dad wasn't a union man he was unable to stay on any job very long at a time."

"In 1947, Dad went to work for the United Fuel Gas Co. He didn't join the union. He only got around \$60 every two weeks because he wasn't a union man."

"He was called a pickup man and only got to work about nine months out of a year."

"On Nov. 15, 1949, Dad joined the CIO Union Local 628 at Clendenin and he went to work as a steady man for the United Fuel Gas Co. and since Dad has joined, the union is heaven sent. His pay check is over \$160 for two weeks work and since he has joined the union he has gained around 35 head of livestock and has bought three trucks and one car and mother a new washing machine and a new stove, and me a bike."

UE Strikes Balk Company Attacks

Strikes in 3 widely separated areas were being conducted by UE locals against company attempts to break the unions.

In Scranton, GE workers remained solid in the 2nd month of their fight to defend seniority rights against management assaults. Wide community support was building up for the strikers.

In Northern New Jersey, members of UE Local 433 were picketing 4 plants of the Tung-Sol Co. Three thousand workers are involved in this struggle which revolves around company refusal to pay a decent wage increase, and insistence on maintaining discrimination against women workers. This was the first strike at Tung-Sol during the 13 years that its workers have been organized in UE.

Third on the strike list was Cleveland's F. C. Russell plant, manufacturers of Rusco storm windows. This strike was forced on UE Local 735 members by the company's all-out campaign to break UE in the shop. This campaign had started with a management-inspired raid by the AFL. This raid was beaten by the overwhelming pro-UE vote of 127 to 27.

However, Russell management didn't give up and tried to do a job in contract negotiations, completely refusing to grant any wage boost.

Administration Double Talks on Profits Levy

Treasury Secretary George M. Humphrey presented the Eisenhower administration's demand to the House ways and means committee June 1 that the excess profits tax be continued another six months by saying: "I dislike the excess profits tax and think it is a bad tax."

Humphrey went through the motions of recommending the tax be continued beyond June 30 to defend America through military strength and against economic collapse. He promised, however, that if Congress extends the tax for another half-year, it will then be eliminated "once and for all."

He said it is hoped individual income taxes also can be reduced after Jan. 1.

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Chicago—UE Local 1150 members have won wage increases of 6c to 13c an hour, and the straightening out of inequities in a wage reopener settlement with the Goodman Co. The improvements were won after the workers walked off their jobs on the final day of the reopener period. Negotiations with Goodman last year brought an 11c hourly boost.

San Francisco—Warehouse workers belonging to the International Longshore and Warehousemen's Union have rejected an employers' association offer of a 5c increase and pension improvements. The action by San Francisco and Oakland workers was unanimous.

New York—A major breakthrough against sex discrimination has been won by UE Local 1227. The breakthrough was scored when the Waldes-Kohinoor management agreed to put a trained woman worker on as a maintenance machinist at \$1.99 an hour. The woman had been working as a piece worker with average earnings of \$1.60.

New York—CIO brewery workers have approved a 7½c to 17½c hourly pay boost negotiated with major beer companies in a reopener. Approximately 5,500 workers will get the bigger paychecks.

St. Louis—Complete unity of Fred Medart workers during a 2-week strike has paid off to the tune of 9½c to 12c hourly wage boost. The UE members also got a number of fringe improvements, and completely blocked company attempts to weaken the contract.

San Francisco — AFL bakery workers have ended a 4-day strike in Northern California after the companies agreed to reduce working hours from 37½ a week to 35 with no loss in pay. About 11,000 workers ratified the pact.

Piqua, Ohio—UE Local 776 has won an 8c wage increase for workers at the Aerovent Fan and Fabricator Co., with an additional 5c boost for skilled workers.

St. Louis—The AFL public employees union has launched a drive to organize municipal workers in this city. The union has assigned 6 organizers to handle the job.

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Local Files Mass Grievance Asking Higher Pay and Better Conditions for Toolmakers

UE Local 301 this week filed a mass grievance on behalf of all toolmakers in the GE Schenectady works. The special grievance docket filed with works management stated that the tool and die workers are "dissatisfied with their present wages and conditions," and proposed a 5-point program to correct the situation.



NEW STEWARDS. Eight new committeemen and women were sworn in at the Monday meeting of shop stewards. Those to take the oath were John Bailey, Bldg. 273; Stanley Linder, 273; Raymond Pacifico, 60; Frank Plominski, 81; Chester Podbielski, 40; George Smith, 49; Eva Van Hoesen, 28; and Sidney Wright, 49. Six of the new stewards are pictured above.

U.S. SURVEY REVEALS:

Work Forces Many Women To Give Away Their Kids

Many mothers, driven by sheer economic necessity into defense plants and other employment, are being forced to give up their children because there are no facilities to care for the youngsters while the mothers are on the job, a study by the Labor Dept. Women's Bureau revealed.

Adequate child care facilities for working mothers was one of the main points on the program drafted by the recent UE national women's conference.

The startling disclosure is made in a booklet, Employed Mothers & Child Care, based on a study of conditions in 28 industrial centers in 12 states. The study said conditions in these areas are typical of defense production centers throughout the country.

"In almost all areas," the booklet said, "the existing agencies (for day care of children) have waiting lists sometimes two or three times as great as the capacity for service. In many places these centers are always overcrowded."

"In some cities an increased demand for foster home care of children has been noted by welfare agencies, and this usually is attributed to the fact that mothers who have to work are unable to find suitable day care."

The welfare agencies also noted that increased living costs in 1951 and 1952 forced many mothers who formerly did not work to join the labor force. The report showed that many mothers who have work-



LISTENING CAREFULLY. The back part of the UE Local 301 hall during Monday's shop stewards' meeting is pictured above. The stewards are shown listening attentively to a report on GE negotiations by President James Cognetta.

The program was that adopted by the toolmakers' meeting at UE hall last week. It calls for a substantial wage increase; better opportunities for apprentice course graduates; chances for toolmakers not working at their trade to fill openings; limitation of the ratio of apprentices to journeymen in the tool rooms; and faster upgrading to the B classification for apprentice graduates.

Presenting the grievance to management was an 11-member negotiating committee selected by the toolmakers' meeting. This group consists of R. Alexander, Bldg. 28; T. Bajer, 17; Neil Dube, 24; Ray Ellis, 273; Anthony Esposito, 53; Douglas Gray, 269; R. Keneston, 273; Rudy Kverek, 17; Joseph Krone, 46; John Pettinger, 87; and Robert Wilson, 28.

The filing of the grievance was part of the two-pronged attack launched by UE to raise the rates of skilled workers. The other front on which the union is fighting the battle is the national negotiating sessions. One of UE's main demands in current wage talks with GE is for a special increase for skilled workers.

Such an increase would have the effect of raising the low ceilings on the day work rate structure.

UE's case for increases for skilled workers has been greatly strengthened by the recent 10c hourly boost negotiated for skilled workers in the automobile industry, as well as by increases won in job shops by UE Local 155 in Philadelphia, and by UE and the AFL machinists in Chicago, Detroit and Seattle.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UE SAYS TO GE

STOP THE SPEED-UP!

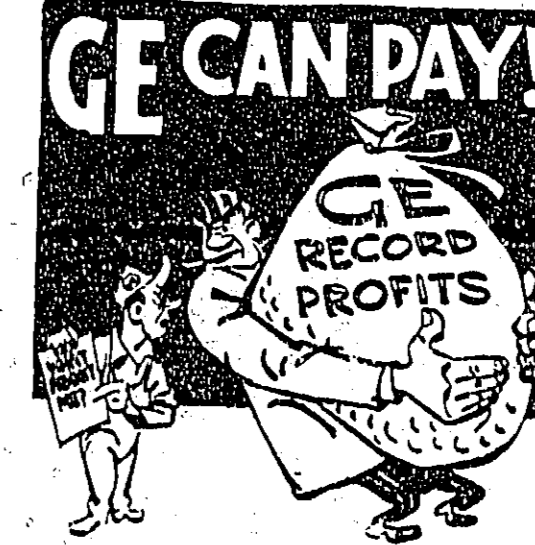
"IN THE SUMMER, girls fall out each and every day from exhaustion... Several girls in our department have disabled arms and had to be taken off the machines."

This indictment of today's speed up is made by a GE woman worker at the Cleveland GE Lamp Plant. This UE member was only one of several women from the plant who spoke up at the UE National Women's Conference and bitterly attacked the speed-up.

Said another UE member:

"We are expected to put out 8,000 to 9,000 lamps a day. If you go to the washroom more than twice and if the boss catches you he asks, 'Why are you taking so many rest periods? You're only allowed two a day.' We tell him 'it's hot,' and he says 'It's all in your mind.'"

The experience of these two GE workers in Cleveland is typical of men and women workers in GE plants across the country. It is GE policy carried out by its managers and foremen to get the maximum work out of GE workers.



GE Speed-Up Means GE Profits

There is no mystery why GE, like other companies, speeds up workers. Speed-up means profits. GE made \$416,000,000 in 1952, almost \$2,000 on every employee and over \$2,500 on every production worker. This is a lot of money and explains why GE pays little attention to the health of its workers. The union is the only defender against the company drive for speed-up and profits.

GE Exploits Our Productivity

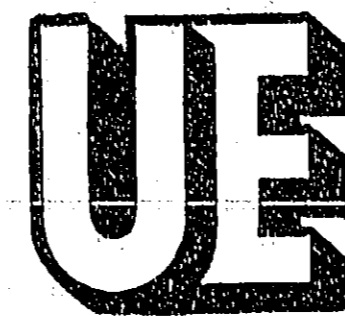
Since 1939 productivity in General Electric has risen 78 per cent per worker. Our real annual wages have increased only 21% based upon the phony BLS index. Actually UE estimates a DECREASE in real annual wages. Here is the source of tremendous profits. No wonder that since 1939 GE has increased its assets by 303% and its sales by 562%. Next to Westinghouse GE has grown faster than any other corporation in America. GE assets and GE profits have come literally out of the life of the workers.

Exhausting speedup is a constant threat to our health. It is inexcusable.

Exhausting speedup for exorbitant profits is outrageous.

UE SAYS: STOP THE SPEED-UP!

(see other side)



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