

Schenectady Papers Really Go to Town

As expected, the two Schenectady daily papers this week went all-out with untrue stories about Local 301 membership actions. The two papers obviously were engaged in a campaign in support of GE and the so-called Democratic Action group in their attacks on the union.

Most brazen was the page one story in the Gazette Wednesday, headlined "400 UE Members Turned Away from Meeting, Get No Vote." The purpose obviously was to stir up trouble among the members who did not know the facts. The fact of course was that none were "turned away" from the meeting. Members arriving after the main hall was filled were directed by firemen to check in at the rear instead of the front. The few who left, instead of waiting to go to the rear where there was ample room, may have become discouraged.

The Gazette could have gotten the truth from the union office or the firemen on duty. But it did not want the facts. It simply printed as a story the smear attacks by the so-called Democratic Action group on the democratic decision of the membership.

The Union-Star Wednesday evening carried the newspaper attack further by saying that more than 1,000 members tried to enter the hall. This was pure fiction. Both papers also were equally inaccurate in reporting the actions of the meeting. They made it appear that members in the rear rooms were barred from voting for the election committee. The opposite was true.

The previous day the Union-Star made an "iron curtain" story out of the membership's overwhelming decision in October to keep newspapers out of future meetings. The Union-Star went so far as to say "Jandreau Says 'Membership' Voted 'Iron Curtain'." Of course he said no such thing.

The Union-Star knows that the overwhelming majority of membership organizations, labor or otherwise, hold their business meetings closed. This includes the Bar Association and the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, to which the Union-Star belongs. But if Local 301 does it, it becomes an "iron curtain".

Both the Gazette and the Union-Star also showed once more that they will give free space for "statements" by individuals and self-appointed "spokesmen" for this or that group, no matter how irresponsible, just as long as they are attacking the policies of UE.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP BY YOMEN



Meeting in Offing On Craft Rates

G. H. Pfeif, GE employee relations manager, in a letter to 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau last week expressed willingness to schedule a meeting on the recent increases in the rates of skilled mechanics at Watervliet Arsenal.

At the same time, he indicated that he has already prejudged the case. His letter stated he was still of the opinion that not much is to be gained by such a meeting.

Jandreau asked for the meeting on the grounds that the recent Arsenal increases, ranging up to 20 cents an hour, should create a "definite basis for an increase in the Schenectady Works for craft rates." Pfeif said that as soon as he straightens out his schedule he will get in touch with Jandreau to fix a date for the discussion.

Another UE Victory

After three weeks of organizing and a six-hour strike, UE Local 475 has signed a contract with Production Enterprises, New York City.

There's a flat 10 cents an hour raise, and through automatic progression most workers will get 10 to 15 cents more in six months. There are eight paid holidays.

Battery Workers Start Fight on Lead Poisoning

A program to combat lead poisoning and other hazards caused by lead dust in battery shops was discussed at a conference of battery workers held at the UE District 1 office in Philadelphia recently.

This conference marked the opening gun in a drive to make battery plants safer places to work, and to get proper treatment and compensation for victims of lead poisoning and other afflictions caused by improper control of lead.

Will Present Skit

Rehearsals will start soon for "Out of Your Pocket", a skit to be presented by Local 301 members under direction of Mrs. Dorothy Perlin. Three parts still have to be filled, the roles of a workingman, a politician and a boss. Both men and women are welcome to try out. The skit will be pantomime, —no spoken lines.

Notify the union office or telephone Mrs. Perlin at 2-0885 if you are interested in taking part. A former actress, Mrs. Perlin was asked by the Activities Committee to arrange dramatics and other entertainment.

Is Your Shop 100 Per Cent UE?

GE Doesn't Repeat This FDR Statement

The General Electric Company recently quoted FDR in an article. But here is one FDR statement of Oct. 26, 1944, that GE would prefer its employees to forget:

"... Beware of that profound enemy of the free enterprise system who pays lip-service to free competition—but also labels every anti-trust prosecution as a 'persecution'." This statement by FDR came two days after the President of GE complained that "the administration of the anti-trust laws... is one of the biggest obstacles to post war recovery."

Pensioner's Jobless Pay At Issue in Appeal Filed

Local 301 has filed an appeal from the decision of a State Unemployment Insurance referee upholding the effort of the General Electric Company to keep a pensioner from getting his unemployment insurance without a seven weeks delay.

Frederick Hemboldt, a metal spinner in Building 19, went on a voluntary pension in May at the age of 60 because of bad working conditions. GE claimed he left "without cause" and shouldn't get jobless pay without the extra wait. The Unemployment Insurance office originally ruled he was eligible for payment without such delay but GE protested.

Elmira UE Board Answers Company

The Executive Board of UE Local 310 at the Elmira GE Works has issued a statement demanding that GE correct the working conditions at the foundry "to the extent that no more workers develop silicosis" and that GE fulfill its obligations to take care of the silicosis victims.

The statement was a reply to the GE Works News attempt to dismiss the silicosis exposure as "misleading" and "inspired by other than our Local Union fellow workmen."

More than seven months ago an Elmira UE officer complained about the dust conditions at top level contract negotiations in New York City, the Board pointed out. Local 310 arranged for the X-rays and medical examinations, with the help of UE District 3 and the national UE.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 6 — No. 47

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

November 26, 1948



Union Fights to Get Veteran Better Job

Local 301 has taken to the How-ell level the case of a World War II veteran, with five years service, who is kept at a job as material handler in Building 42 instead of getting a chance for advancement. The union considers the case of this veteran as typical of the problem faced by numerous veterans of GE.

The veteran, a married man, has had some machine experience and has taken six months of vocational training in machine shop practice and blueprint reading.

At a grievance session Nov. 11 Charles Murey, supervisor of personnel, admitted he had "capacity for advancement." Murey claimed that the veteran showed a lack of interest and effort in his present job, and said he won't be given opportunity for advancement till he does better in his present work.

On the basis of his service, training and initiative the worker de-

Two Parties Planned Tonight at 301 Hall

There will be two section night parties tonight at 301 Hall.

At 7:30 p.m. the section represented by Board Member Dewey Brashear will have a get-together. It's a repeat performance by popular demand, as the group had one several weeks ago.

Second shift workers from all parts of the plant will have a section night after they finish work at midnight tonight.

serves a better job, the union said. It would be natural for him to show dissatisfaction with being stuck as material handler, the union representatives pointed out. He had been given to understand that the job was only a temporary assignment, till a better one was found.

The union demanded that the veteran be given one of the many openings which are being filled by new employees.

GE Called To Court For Pay Day Change

The General Electric Company has been summoned to appear in Schenectady Police Court at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, on a charge of violating the State Labor Law and Penal Law by the change in pay days made in late September at the Schenectady plant.

Five workers in Building 73, members of Local 301, signed the information against GE as complaining witnesses. Before the change they used to be paid every Friday for the work they performed Monday through Friday of the preceding week. Now they don't get paid until the next Monday. This delay means their pay is held up longer than the six days allowed by state law.

The summons was issued by Police Justice Charles G. Fryer and was served on J. M. Howell, Works manager. Marshall Perlin, Local 301 attorney, represents the union members.

The company notified the union Sept. 14 that it planned to change pay days from Thursday and Friday to Friday and Monday. Business Agent Leo Jandreau protested to the company that large numbers of workers found it a real inconvenience to wait until after the weekend to be paid. The company refused to change its position, however, aside from saying it would try to accommodate individual groups with special problems.

Local 301 filed a complaint with the State Labor Department about the law violation involved in the change of pay days. State officials contacted GE on the complaint. Pending the outcome of the state investigation, the Police Court action was started and the union conferred with the district attorney's district attorney's office.

Auditing Committee

The Local 301 membership meeting last week elected the following auditing committee: George Sengenberger, Bldg. 16; Robert Fowler, Bldg. 10, and Tom McGrath, Bldg. 52.

Pensioners to Meet

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the union hall.

301 Election Dec. 2 and 3 At Union Hall

Election of Local 301 officers for 1948 will take place next week at the union hall, Liberty St. and Erie Blvd., from noon Thursday, Dec. 2, to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3.

Announcement of the time, place and other arrangements for the around-the-clock voting was made this week by the Election Committee of 25 members elected by the 301 membership meeting last week.

"Voting in the local union election will again be on voting machines at the union hall," the committee stated.

"Last year's experience confirmed the belief that this would guarantee the complete accuracy of the count, and a fair election free from any outside interference in the vicinity of the polls."

The Election Committee chose Morton Lewis, Building 46, as

(Continued on Page 2)

All Members Urged To Vote in Election

The Election Committee urges all members to cast their votes in the Local 301 election. Like citizenship, union membership is not only a right, but a duty. The UE is run by the membership, and it is up to the membership to carry out the job by participating in all decisions. Certainly every single member should be ready to give the very little time needed to cast his or her vote in the annual election of officers.

Arrangements completed by the committee will make voting fast and easy.

For members coming by car, the committee has arranged with the City Bureau of Traffic and Planning to reserve all parking space on Erie Boulevard and Wall Street outside the union hall for union voters during the hours the polls are open.

Election Committee
Morton F. Lewis, Chairman
Mary M. McArthur, Secretary

301 Election Dec. 2 and 3

(Continued from Page 1)
chairman and Mary McCartin, Bldg. 28, secretary, at its first meeting Thursday of last week. It decided on election arrangements and rules at a meeting Monday.

The committee has asked the City Council for a dozen voting machines to be used in the election. The request was still to be acted on by a City Council caucus by the time this week's issue of EU News went to press. However, on the



Mary McCartin Morton Lewis

basis of last year's experience and informal information obtained by the Election Committee, it is a foregone conclusion that the city machines will be available.

The votes will be tallied immediately after the closing of the polls. Members actually in line when the polls close will be permitted to vote.

Eligibility to Vote

All members in good standing as of Nov. 12, date of the latest check-off, will be eligible to vote. Names of eligible members and their check numbers will be on cards which must be signed by the members before they vote.

The committee provided for a sub-committee to rule on the case of any member whose eligibility claim is at variance with the union records.

Each presidential candidate will be entitled to two watchers to be present at all times while the polls

List of Candidates For Union Election

Recording Secretary Helen Quirini has announced the following list of candidates who sent written acceptances of their nominations.

For president, Andrew Peterson, Frank C. Kriss and Stanley L. Finher.

For vice-president, William G. Hodges and Martin J. Stanton.

For recording secretary, Helen Quirini, John E. Briggs and Frank Fiorillo.

For assistant recording secretary, Thelma Willey Tiscione and John P. Green.

For treasurer, Marshall White, Michael Girgerck and William A. Downs.

For chief shop steward, Billy Mastriani and Stephen A. Watts.

For business agent, Leo Jandreau and Raymond D. Flanigan.

For trustees (three to be elected), Albert E. Davis, John R. Boyd, George Quick, David Bambury, Ralph Miranda and Edward A. Luberda.

For sergeant-at-arms, Harmon Cartwright and Frank D. Civitello.

For guide, George A. Walker and Stephen E. James.

Basketball Victories

The 301 basketball teams are doing well to date.

The girls' team beat the Bowers, 31 to 13, at Central Park Junior High School Monday night.

The men's team defeated the Webster Tavern players, 36 to 28, Nov. 17 at Oneida High School.

are open. No electioneering or loitering will be permitted in the hall or on the stairways during voting hours.

Candidates for all offices were invited to attend a special meeting of the committee Wednesday at which lots were to be drawn to determine the order in which names of candidates will appear on the machine.

The constitution this year permits two or more candidates to agree among themselves to appear on one line on the machine, and to draw lots as one group.

"In order to avoid any encouragement to the development of permanent parties or factions within the union", the committee announced, "lines on the machines will be designated by numbers only. No emblems, slogans, or other designations will be allowed."

Members can write-in names if they want to. Written instructions on how to vote and how to write-in will be posted on each machine.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"I'LL TELL MY UNCLE TO SEND THE THOMAS COMMITTEE AFTER YOU."

Election Committee Issues Statement

The 301 Election Committee has issued the following statement:

The Election Committee is shocked that two Executive Board members and a union trustee should go to the anti-labor press with false statements slandering the democratic procedures of the 301 membership and its constitution.

Apart from the brazen falsehood about members being "denied the right to vote" at the meeting last week, the statement to the Gazette by Brothers Kriss, Downs, Campbell, Flanigan and Green suggests that an elected committee of 301 shop stewards and rank-and-file members is "controlled" by the present officers.

Brother Kriss was the secretary of last year's election committee. He participated in and voted for all the arrangements at that time, including the vote at the union hall. Does he now say that last year he was just a stooge for the officers?

Regardless of whom we support individually, we were elected to conduct the election in accordance with the constitution of Local 301,

fairly and impartially. That is exactly what we shall do.

In view of the repeated intention expressed publicly by the company this year to interfere in the union's internal affairs, the danger of the company seeking to influence the election is a real danger. The arrangements we have made guarantee a fair and honest election free from interference from any source whatever.

After last year's election there was no criticism of the conduct of the election from any candidates or anyone else. We expect to establish the same record this year.

Election Committee

MORTON F. LEWIS,
Chairman.
MARY M. McCARTIN,
Secretary.

State CIO Delegates

Delegates to the State CIO convention, elected by the 301 membership meeting last week, were William Stewart, Joseph Saccoccio, William Templeton, Fred Paocelli and Leo Jandreau.

Getting UE News?

Are you getting your national UE News?
If not, give the union office your name and address.

Rail Unions' Paper Hits Atomic Group

Two articles attacking the labor policy of the Atomic Energy Commission were recently published by Labor, the national weekly newspaper of 15 railroad unions.

One story pointed out that at the time David E. Lilienthal, chairman of the AEC, was being "wined and dined by the civic leaders of Cincinnati" in mid-November, the convention of the AFL Metal Trades Department in Cincinnati condemned the Commission's labor policy.

Officers reported that during the war AFL unions waived traditional union standards to build atomic plants, agreed not to press collective bargaining and gave up the right to strike.

Dictatorial Set-Up

"They did so despite the fact that while the atom plants are owned by the government, they are operated by private employers," the article stated.

"The unions hoped that, once the war had ended, the Commission would provide for real collective bargaining and establish machinery by which disputes and grievances would be settled fairly and squarely, particularly as the employees cannot strike.

"The Metal Trades chiefs pointed out, however, that the Commission has failed to act—and instead has given the private operators dictatorial power over labor relations. This set-up was strongly condemned."

The other article criticized the Commission, for insisting on imposing a non-union subcontractor on a maintenance job in the town of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Fault of Commission

AFL electricians resigned their jobs with the Roane-Anderson firm and quit in a group rather than work with non-union men brought in by a sub-contractor. The Roane-Anderson contract was for work in the town and had no connection with the atomic plant itself, but was under supervision of AEC.

A Taft-Hartley referee ruled that resigning in a group was "striking" and ordered the union men back to work. The railroad newspaper quotes an AFL official as protesting that "the situation would never have arisen" if the AEC hadn't insisted "on imposing a non-union subcontractor on the job."

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"YOU'D BETTER GET ACCIDENT INSURANCE - I'M GOING TO QUOTE YOU."

GE Pensioners' Hospitalization Plan Marks Victory for Part of UE Program

The new plan announced by GE for providing hospitalization benefits for pensioners marks a victory in part of the UE fight to improve conditions of retired workers.

During the last contract negotiations UE asked the company for hospitalization benefits for pensioners, a \$120 a month minimum pension and other security provisions. The union arranged for a committee of pensioners, from various cities including Schenectady, to meet with top GE officials in New York City to press for these proposals.

Specific requests by the union included:

That X-ray and dispensary service at the dispensaries of the company's works be made available to GE pensioners without cost.

That Mutual Benefit Association coverage for GE pensioners be continued after retirement, the cost to be borne by the company.

That the pensioners' group insurance coverage be continued after retirement in the full amount—the cost to be borne by the company.

Although the new hospitalization plan is inadequate and has been described as "experimental" by GE,

GE Tries to Whitewash Facts in Carboloy Case

Five weeks after the General Electric Company was found guilty in U. S. Federal Court of criminal conspiracy with the Nazi Krupp munitions firm in the carboloy monopoly, the Works News of Nov. 19 finally published an article about the conviction.

But the GE paper tried to pass off the case as just "a suit" brought by the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice, as though only a civil violation was involved.

Criminal Conviction

Actually GE was tried on a criminal indictment and found guilty, along with two affiliated companies and three executives. To be sure, the fines imposed were ridiculously small, in view of the huge profits GE made through overcharging the government for carboloy. And no fine could offset what the bottleneck in carboloy cost in American soldiers' lives. The agreement with Krupp continued into 1940, after Hitler started World War II.

Monopoly in U. S. A.

GE President Charles E. Wilson is quoted in the Works News as claiming that there would have been no American carboloy industry at the start of World War II, except for GE's agreement with Krupp. That's a case of trying to make patriotism out of swindling the United States government.

In 1940 Hitler was getting 12 pounds of carboloy for the same price that the United States government was paying for one pound for our armed forces. If GE hadn't controlled the entire carboloy output in this country, dozens of plants could have been using the German patent.

Wage Boosts in Canada

The Canadian UE recently negotiated wage increases for Westinghouse Company and Hoover Company workers at Hamilton, Ontario.

At Westinghouse UE won a raise of 13 cents an hour, retroactive to Oct. 28, with three cents to be added by Apr. 1. The Hoover raise was 12 cents retroactive to Oct. 28, plus two cents Apr. 1.

Speed Record

In two days UE organized the National Wire and Die Company, New York City, 100 per cent. Management promptly recognized the union and after short negotiations signed a contract.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
United Electrical, Radio & Machine
Workers of America, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McCartin, Secretary
Arthur E. Bertini Clayton Pudney
John G. Grasso Victor Pascho

Editorial Office
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 3-1386