

301 Guide Swears In 10 Men and a Girl as Shop Stewards



New shop stewards take oath of office at 301 hall. At extreme left, George Walker, 301 guide, the officiating officer. Stewards, left to right, Floyd Warner, Bldg. 16; Vernon Holmes, Bldg. 46; Mario Bagnato, Bldg. 52; E. P. Riley, Bldg. 46; Carman Renzi, Bldg. 60; Joseph Thomas, Bldg. 49; Eileen Everett, Bldg. 53; W. C. Benning, Bldg. 40; Walter Moran, Bldg. 49; Frank Calazzo, Bldg. 60, and Robert A. Reid, Bldg. 49.

UE Independent Political Committee Will Back Candidates at All Levels

The General Executive Board of UE has voted to set up a UE Independent Political Committee on a national, district and local basis to support as candidates for public office "fighting advocates of our democratic and progressive program for jobs, democracy and peace." Locals will make their own choice of what candidates to endorse.

The step is in accordance with the 1947 UE convention resolution calling "for creation of an independent political force answerable to no boss or machine and responsive only to the will of the rank and file."

PAC Violates Independence

CIO-PAC has violated its traditional political independence and the autonomy of UE and all CIO unions, the GEB felt, by trying to force from the top its decision about presidential candidates. UE general officers were directed by the GEB to resign from leadership in CIO-PAC for this reason, and because of widespread expulsions of UE members from PAC for opposing the arbitrary PAC actions.

A letter from the UE general officers to locals explains that at every level, UE members through the new independent organization will endorse candidates, participate in campaigns and raise necessary voluntary funds.

Will Cooperate with Others

"At every level, UE-IPC will cooperate with all other groups seeking similar progressive objectives. This includes, specifically, maximum cooperation with CIO-PAC, the AFL Political Education League and the Railroad Brotherhoods' political organization."

BACK THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A 100% UE SHOP

Newspaper Editorial Belittles Pensioners

GE pensioners, trying to live on \$20 a month and \$30 a month GE pensions, must have been interested in a recent Schenectady Union-Star editorial. The paper implied that it's their custom to winter in Florida—and to chisel on unemployment insurance.

The editorial, "How Many Chisellers?" commented on the high percentage of men over 65 years of age listed as continuously unemployed during the last six months of 1947.

The Union-Star said it "would like to see a breakdown on how many of the total were men who had been retired on pensions - - ."

It also asked "how many of these unemployment compensation checks went to Florida - - ."

Possibly the Union-Star can tell 65 year-old men where they can get jobs.

\$50 Donation Voted

Local 301 has donated \$50 to the widows' and orphans' fund of the Schenectady Police Benevolent Association. The money was voted by the Executive Board Apr. 12.

\$100 for Boys' Club

A donation of \$100 for the Schenectady Boys' Club was voted by the 301 Executive Board Monday.

Party For Youngsters

Children of Local 301 members are invited to a movie party at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at the union hall. There will be refreshments.

Business Paper Admits Cause of Price Raises

A Big Business spokesman, the New York Journal of Commerce, has admitted at least indirectly, the truth of Labor's contention that a wage increase is not the cause of a price increase.

The Journal of Commerce on March 2 wrote:

"In the electrical equipment industry, vigorous price competition in appliances has arrived.

"Any wage increase, therefore, is likely to come directly out of corporate earnings, since it may not be feasible to pass the rise on to the consumer. General Electric Co. has indicated that it will oppose a wage rise."

So the real reason is out. And we all know now that GE is making enough profits to grant a big wage raise and still have high earnings left.

Prices are governed by what traffic will bear, and not by wage increases. Just now, regardless of whether or not we get a raise, prices of food and other essentials are likely to shoot up because the government program of huge expenditures for armaments and the Marshall plan mean profit inflation.

CIO on Air

The Capital District CIO Council broadcast at 9:45 p.m. every Monday over WROW.

Seek Arbitration Of Job Evaluation

UE will present to the company in New York today a demand that it submit to arbitration, in accordance with the contract, Local 301's proposal for a complete negotiated wage structure for the Schenectady Works. The union's proposal was submitted locally five months ago. It would correct the many job rates which the union contends are out of line. The proposed structure was worked out by the job evaluation committee of the 301 Executive Board and approved by the shop stewards on instruction of the membership.

In view of the refusal of management locally to negotiate on the proposed schedule of rates, UE is taking the position that the national management either must work out the proposal with the union or submit it to arbitration. Otherwise GE will be violating the contract.

UE also has told the company that any wage offer, to be acceptable, must include specific provision for the correction of job rates which are out of line.

Attend Bus Fare Hearing

The State Public Service Commission is expected to decide shortly whether it will grant the Schenectady Railway Company an "indefinite extension" of the straight dime bus fare. The city of Schenectady, the village of Scotia and the town of Rotterdam opposed the 10 cent fare at a PSC hearing in Albany recently. Local 301 representatives present were William Mastriani, Albert Davis and Willard Kuschel.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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Is This What GE Wants?



Steel Copies GE Price Propaganda

GE's propaganda campaign of fighting wage increases while making new record profits was adopted during the past week by United States Steel and other major steel companies, as well as Westinghouse in the electrical field. Like GE, these companies announced "price reductions" after big price increases, (the latest in February), and now claim they are fighting inflation. They continue to make highly inflationary profits.

Big Advertising Outlay

U. S. Steel's advertisement appeared in Schenectady, where it has no plant, so that the total advertising bill throughout the country must have been tremendous. Like GE, U. S. Steel is part of the J. P. Morgan-First National Bank interest group (the world's largest), according to an official finding of the government Smaller War Plants Corporation in 1946.

The situation in steel is different than in UE, because the United Steelworkers last year signed a two-year contract which in effect forces it to accept the company's

position on wages this year. This is not true of the negotiations in UE, auto, packing, etc.

Prices Will Go Up

The big electrical and steel companies can hardly believe their own propaganda about "bringing about . . . reduction in the cost of living."

Big Business' own economists and experts are predicting just the opposite. All expectations now are for prices to go up still further, regardless of wages. Joseph M. Dodge, president of the American Bankers' Association, said Apr. 19 that "new and additional inflationary factors have been introduced into the national economy as a result of the adoption of the foreign aid program and planned expenditures for military needs. The Wall Street Journal has said about the same in different words.

UE Radio Program

Tune in on the weekly radio broadcast of Arthur Gaeth, sponsored by national UE at 10 p.m. every Monday over WOKO, Albany; WKBW, Buffalo, WGLN, Glens Falls; WKIP, Poughkeepsie; WSNY, Schenectady, and WAGE, Syracuse.

UE Strike Threat Wins Victory at Westinghouse

Militant action by UE workers at the Westinghouse plant at Cheektowaga last week won satisfactory settlement of major union grievances there.

On the eve of a scheduled strike, the company agreed:

To eliminate a new incentive system which had resulted in a speed-up.

To negotiate a job evaluation program.

To install a satisfactory system to cover "down time".

To provide job security for maintenance workers who were being bumped off their jobs by outside contracts.

To reinstate a discharged shop steward and arbitrate another steward's dismissal.

The workers voted to strike if agreement was not reached by last Saturday. Impatient at weeks of negotiations with management, about 1300 workers left their jobs anyway Saturday and the night before. They returned Monday however, at the direction of union officers.

Negotiations On Contract Are in Recess

GE contract negotiations are in recess, with no date set, while delegates from the 90 GE locals of UE prepare to meet again next week to consider the deadlock. The GE Conference Board of UE delegates will meet by itself and also with the delegates from the other nation-wide companies in UE—Westinghouse, General Motors Electrical Division, and Sylvania.

The UE committee called for the recess last week after the company again had refused to make a wage offer. A report sent out by the UE committee stated:

UE Statement

"The committee wishes to repeat the statement in its report of last week — that General Electric, despite its record-breaking profits and the needs of its workers, will not budge until the membership makes preparations to enforce these demands upon the company."

The committee includes Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent and president of District 3, Lynnwood T. Ford, Jr. of Philadelphia, Frederick M. Kelley of Lynn, Ivan W. Lord of Pittsfield office workers, John H. Callahan of Pittsfield, John Nelson of Erie, Fred Haug of Cleveland, Lyle Dougherty of Fort Wayne, and International Representatives Joseph Turkowski and Joseph Dermody.

Big Business Tie-In

The report also stated: "There appears to be an obvious tie-in between the big corporations now engaged in contract negotiations, to refuse to grant wage increases although their record profits for the past year have broken all previous records."

Individual members of the negotiating committee, including Brother Jandreau, have expressed the belief that GE's aim in the negotiations goes far beyond the wage question, that GE really hopes to weaken and break the union.

High GE Profits

GE's 1947 profit after all taxes was \$95,299,000. This is a net return of 24 per cent on total investment.



Now GE Calls It Cost Improvement

Company language calls it "cost improvement", but the workers in Industrial Control at the Schenectady Works think it means layoffs, insecurity, and speed-up for them, and still new record profits for the GE.

The workers in Control have been hit badly by frequent lost time and many lay-offs. They were therefore interested when someone let out a copy of a supervision sheet entitled "Cost Improvement Chronicle", listing "cost improvements" by various departments and foremen. Those who looked at the table wondered how much of the "cost improvement" represented speed-up or price cut, or the reduction in the number of machine repair men, oilers, or porters in Bldg. 53, without reduction in work load.

The "chronicle" listed top performers among the foremen in the "improvement" program, and announced that "Messrs. Blesh and Bradish are to wine and dine these men." The raises for foremen came later.

Nothing was said about how this contributes to the stability of the country, which GE talks about.

The "chronicle" carried a cartoon of G. J. Sertl, saying "To start our cost reduction program we'll sing 'jingle bells'." Some wonder if he meant tin cans.

Anyway, cheer up next time you're laid off. Maybe you'll be a GE "Cost Improvement."

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UE Rem-Rand Workers Strike at Tonawanda

Firing of the local UE president, Walter Gaul, caused 1100 workers to go on strike Apr. 23 at the Remington-Rand plants at Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. Gaul's discharge was the climax of a series of anti-union actions by the company.

The UE strikers have served notice they will not return to work until Gaul is reinstated and until the company lives up to the terms of last summer's strike settlement. Rem-Rand has violated its agreement to negotiate with UE on working conditions and for a pay raise retroactive to Apr. 1.

This is Gaul's second experience of being fired by Rem-Rand for union activities. He was discharged in 1936, but with the help of the Wagner Act the union forced the company to reinstate him. The case had to be carried to the United States Supreme Court before the company finally gave in.

Now that the Taft-Hartley law is in effect, Rem-Rand feels free to repeat its union-busting tactics. It fired Mike O'Brien, UE president at Ilion, in March and Gaul in April.

Get Facts from Union—Not from Winchell!

The place to get facts about union action is still the union—whether the union office or your shop steward—and not the gossip commentators, no matter how big a network the commentator may be on.

When Walter Winchell on Sunday night predicted "new strikes . . . the dirtiest strike to be the General Electric versus the United Electrical Union," he had no information from the union.

UE strikes are voted directly by the membership, and only the members can make such a decision. As far as UE is concerned, there is no reason why a strike should be dirty. . . Did Winchell get his information from the company? . . .

How GE Handles The 'Free' Press

Here's a sample of the way GE operates to influence news and editorials.

Peter Pavone Jr. of the GE Public Relations Department sent a letter Mar. 31 to the company's appliance and merchandise plant managers. The letter said:

"Attached is a proof of another in the current series of General Electric advertisements dealing with matters of vital importance to every American. . . . This advertisement, in 1,000 line size, and entitled 'How Does General Electric Feel About Unions?' is scheduled for use in the public press of your community next week. . . ."

"Please pursue your friendly relations with news editors or editorialists on your papers by bringing this proof to their attention. If any editorial reaction is obtained, please forward representative clippings to this office."

Many Companies Grant More Than 6 Holidays

Here are some of the 230 plants with UE contracts providing for more than six holidays:

Company	Holidays
Fairechild Instrument	10
Ford Instrument	9
Sperry Gyroscope	9
Hertner Electric	8
Ford Lenard Electric	8
International Projector	8
American Machine & Foundry	8
Singer Sewing Machine (3 plants)	7
Thomas Edison Industries	8
G.E. (Dominion of Canada)	8

It should be noted that while other companies pay for six holidays as does GE, they do not disqualify workers for payment if they are absent the day before or after the holiday. Examples are Westinghouse (National Agreement), General Cable, Sylvania, R.C.A., Philco and Brown Instrument.

Wall Street Journal Confirms UE Article

Two explanations of the latest GE "price cut" ballyhoo were given GE workers last Friday.

One was the Works' News story about "the company's effort to combat inflation," with an additional statement by Vice-President C. H. Lang denying that the slight reductions were needed to sell the products. The Works News placed special emphasis on price cuts on fractional horse-power motors.

The other explanation was in the Electrical Union News. It pointed out that in arguing piece work prices with the union recently, company representatives had said they wanted to reduce selling prices to meet competition.

Which one was the truthful explanation? Here is what the Wall Street Journal, a Big Business organ, reported Feb. 4:

"One of this country's worst industrial shortages, fractional horsepower motors, is fast turning into a surplus. . . . General Electric, biggest maker of small motors, reports a slackening demand for fractional horsepower motors by manufacturers of such major appliances as refrigerators and washing machines."

Of course, Mr. Lang doesn't expect that workers read the Wall Street Journal.

GE Still Fighting Arbitrator's Ruling

UE has started a court action to force the General Electric Company to abide by an arbitrator's decision and reinstate three girls fired last summer at the East Boston lamp plant. The arbitrator ruled they should be returned to their jobs with back pay.

GE recently lost out in an attempt to obtain a New York State Supreme Court decision which would overthrow the arbitrator's decision in the East Boston case. The court denied the company's request.

Wilson Should Try Buying Hamburgers

GE workers who for the past 11 months have seen the price of food climb steadily, with no wage raise, must have been interested in the Works News cartoon, renewing GE's attempt to blame wage increases for price increases. The cartoon went so far as to show a character called "inflation", made to look like the traditional anti-labor paper's idea of a union leader.

In the past two weeks one major local super-market chain jumped hamburger from 49 cents to 55 cents a pound. Presumably Charlie Wilson's cartoonist blames that on "that last round of wage increases" which Wilson has not yet agreed to.

The fact is that prices have gone up steadily. Big Business has offered every excuse, but it has just kept pushing prices and will continue to do so as long as public need and monopoly control make it possible. And workers who can't get a raise will be deeper and deeper in the hole.

Section Meetings

Meetings of day shift stewards of seven sections took place this week and last week and many have been scheduled for next week. The Executive Board directed that the section meetings be called because of the many serious problems facing the union today. In addition to discussing contract negotiations, the stewards have taken up problems of their sections.

Pensioners' Meeting

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

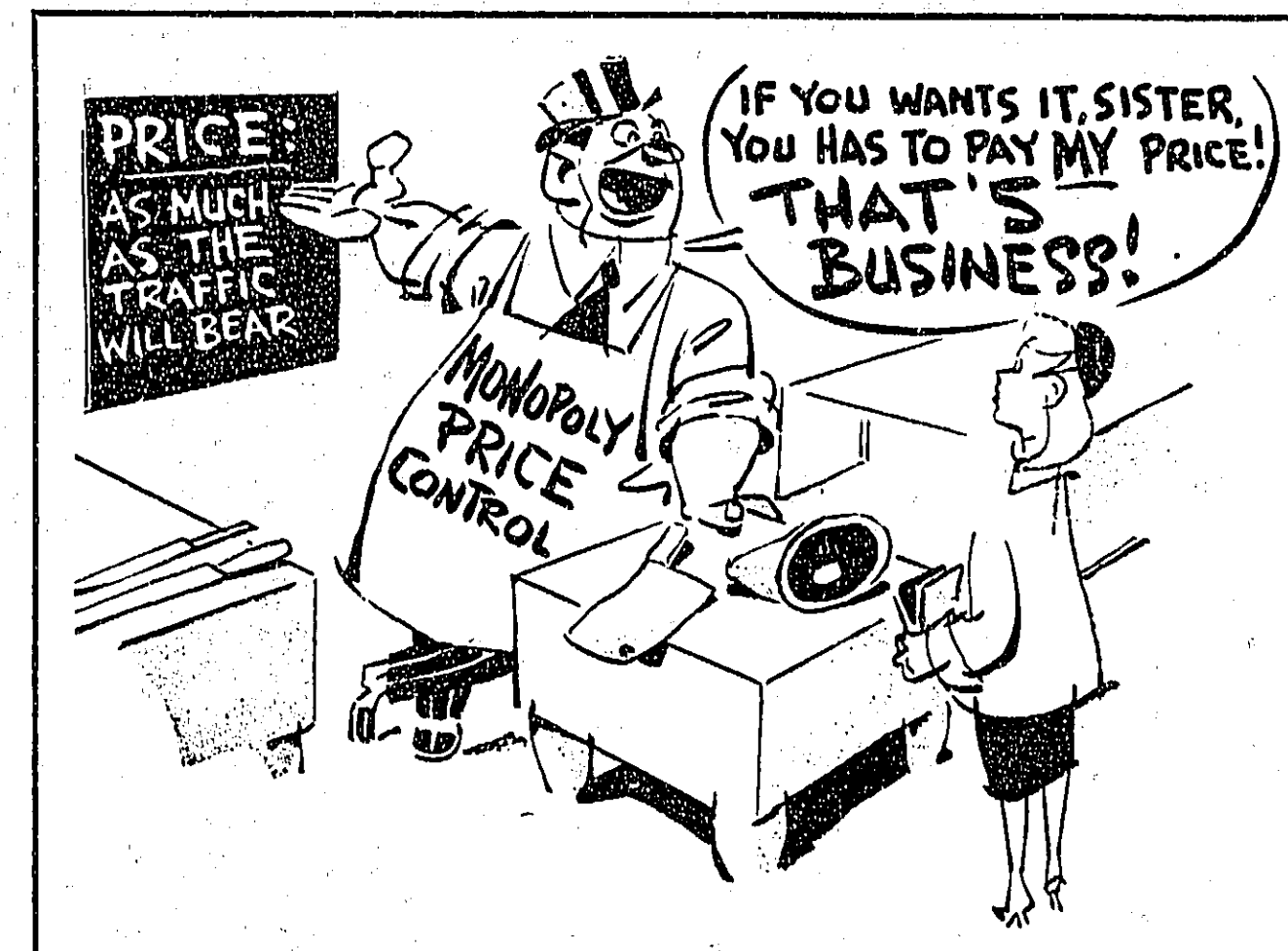
Keep June 27 Free; It's 301 Field Day

The annual Local 301 Field Day will be Sunday, June 27, at Columbian Park, Dunville Rd.

As usual there will be a contest for queen, with candidates from all sections of the plant. The winner will receive a cup and a \$100 bond. Second prize will be a \$50 bond and third prize a \$25 bond.

The grand prize of the day will be a new Studebaker. Other awards will be a television set, an electric grill and a toaster.

The Activities Committee is arranging a full program of sports, dancing, entertainment, games, movies and refreshments. Tickets are 50 cents each.



Shop Stewards' Meeting To Discuss Negotiations

All shifts of shop stewards will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at 301 Hall. The chief subject of the meeting will be the continuing deadlock in GE contract negotiations. Julius Emspak, national UE secretary-treasurer and a member of 301, will take part in the discussion.

Traffic Rules

Obedying traffic rules around the works is a good practice, for safety's sake. Furthermore, company guards have been cruising in private cars to watch out for violators. Workers receiving three tickets for violations are liable to be penalized in their use of company parking lots.

Another Call for Blood

A Local 301 member whose wife is in Ellis Hospital has appealed to the union for blood donations. The hospital blood bank must be repaid for three transfusions the woman has had. Volunteers should contact the union office and when they report to the hospital should explain that the blood is to be credited to 301.

Orders for Food

Executive Board members have a list of food and supplies left over from the 301 Food Center. They will take orders from members until these remaining items are gone.

Health and Welfare Plan

Par Metal workers, members of UE Local 1227, New York City, have won an employer-paid health and welfare plan. It covers hospitalization, medical bills and insurance.

Company Won't Cancel Vacation Shut-Down

GE management has refused the union's request to cancel the vacation shut-down scheduled for this summer in certain departments and return to the practice of individually scheduled vacations. The shut-down affects Electronic Tube, Bldg. 269; Wire and Cable, Bldgs. 85 and 109; Industrial Control, and Induction Motors, Bldgs. 18 and 40.

Louis Male, general superintendent, informed the union of the decision last week after a long delay. The company had asked for time to consider the union's request, which was made last winter.

Male said the policy in future years will depend on the way the shut-down works out this year.

On 301 Broadcast

The GE policy of "decentralization," or establishing run-away shops, was discussed on the Local 301 radio program Wednesday night, over WSNY. Richard Linsley, US District 3 representative, and Fred Gengenbach of Bldg. 77 took part with Milo Lathrop in the broadcast.

Bad News for Bus Riders

The State Public Service Commission has granted permission to the Schenectady Railway Company to continue its 10 cent bus fare until September.

Durez Strike Continues

The UE strike at the Durez Plastics plant, Tonawanda, was still going full steam when this week's EU News went to press.

Take 10,173 Signatures to GE



Representatives of Local 301, photographed in the national GE building with the petitions signed by 10,173 Schenectady workers demanding a pay raise and a better contract. Left to right, Julius Weissman, Clementine Bottieri and Edward G. Bauer. They handed the petitions Apr. 21 to George Pfeif, head GE negotiator.