

## Board To Launch Organizing Drive

UE Local 301's executive board voted Monday to launch a work-wide organizing drive to bring into the organization as many non-union GE workers as is possible.

The decision to launch the drive was made in order to strengthen the union's position in current negotiations with the company. Particular attention will be paid to those women and day workers who are not now in the union.

As a first step in the drive, all shop stewards will be asked to submit a list of the names of the men and women working in their groups. These lists will be checked against the union records to see who is in and who is out of the union. In this way, the executive board members and stewards will know who the non-members in their jurisdiction are, so that they can seek to sign them up.

Similar drives in the past have proven highly successful. Often, it is found that there are a number of new workers in the plant who are ready to join the union, but who for one reason or another have never been approached.

UE Local 301's current membership is around 17,000, making it the largest local union in the electrical industry. It is estimated that about 20,000 production and maintenance workers are employed in the Schenectady works within the union's bargaining unit. If close to 100% of these workers were organized, the union's job both in contract negotiations and in grievance proceedings would be greatly eased.

## Common Issues in Scattered GE Strikes Show Unity Need

Five unions which bargain with GE now have locals out on strike in 5 different cities. In this situation, with the demands of all of the workers closely paralleling each other, only

with one roadblock after another thrown up by the Carey forces. Despite this obstruction, the pressure for united action is growing along with the need of every GE employee for such unity.

Involved in the strikes are a UE local in Scranton, Pa., an IUE-CIO local in Syracuse, CIO autoworkers' and AFL machinists' locals in Evendale, Ohio, and AFL draftsmen's locals in Lynn and Pittsfield.

The Scranton UE strike is over company violations of seniority rights and wage cutting; both of these issues are key in Syracuse; in Evendale, the jet plant strike also revolves around money and seniority, while the draftsmen's walkout is largely over wage demands.

With these common issues reflecting the common needs of all GE workers, UE's united action program should be a natural. In fact, in at least 2 of the strikes some degree of united action has been achieved. The AFL draftsmen in Pittsfield have established their strike headquarters in the offices of the UE organizing committee, while in Scranton, AFL construction workers are respecting UE picket lines.

However, in other cases top union leadership, particularly the Carey clique in IUE, has been doing everything possible to head off united action. As a result, Syracuse IUE members find themselves in a weak condition after 6 weeks of strike. In Lynn, the overwhelming desire of IUE members for united action expressed in the historic April '12 meeting vote, is meeting

## UE Begins Daily Morning Radio Programs on WTRY

UE Local 301 went on the air this week in the opening of a series of early morning radio programs over radio station WTRY. The first week's programs dealt with shop problems.

On Monday's inaugural program, aired between 6:45 and 6:50 a.m., President James Cognetta explained the reason for UE's taking to the air. Cognetta pointed to 301's long record of service to the people of the capital district, and expressed the hope that the radio shows would provide further opportunity to serve the area communities. This would be done, he said, by acquainting the working people with the facts on issues of vital concern to them.

Wednesday's program spelled out this plan for community service. William Stewart of Building 275, chairman of the local's legislative sub-committee, was interviewed on the subject of taxes and the possibilities of tax reduction. He spelled out the importance of the people acting to bring the Reed Bill out on the floor of the House of Representatives so that there would be a chance for a tax cut this year.

Stewart noted that there is only one chance for the Reed Bill even to be considered—that is if the people write their congressmen, urging them to sign the discharge petition which would get it out of committee.

Among the programs slated for this coming week is an interview with Local 301 Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani. Mastriani will discuss his recent visit to GE's new Louisville plant, and the importance of organizing that plant to Schenectady GE workers.

The broadcasts are heard from Monday through Friday at 6:45 a.m. over station WTRY, 980 on your radio dial.

## Fire Wounded Korean Vet Over 10 Minutes

Richard Jablonski is a wounded Korean war veteran who holds a medal for valor as well as the Purple Heart. Until about 2 weeks ago, Jablonski worked as a handyman in the Bldg. 285 shipping room.

Jablonski did his job conscientiously despite constant riding from supervision, particularly from Foreman Frank Luther. Then, Luther suddenly charged that Jablonski had left work 10 minutes early, and had some one punch his time card for him at 3:30. Despite Jablonski's denials, Luther fired him. This completely unwarranted action was backed by General Foreman William Jones, although Jones admitted that there was some doubt about the truth of the charge.

Jablonski has 2 years of service with the company, and even with Luther's antagonism, has a perfect work record. Despite this, and spite his war heroism, 285 supervision is determined that he lose his job over allegedly committing a minor infraction of the rules.

The union is fighting the discharge through the grievance machinery.



FRED WRIGHT

IT'S OKAY, CLANCEY, THAT'S THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE WAY TO CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS...

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

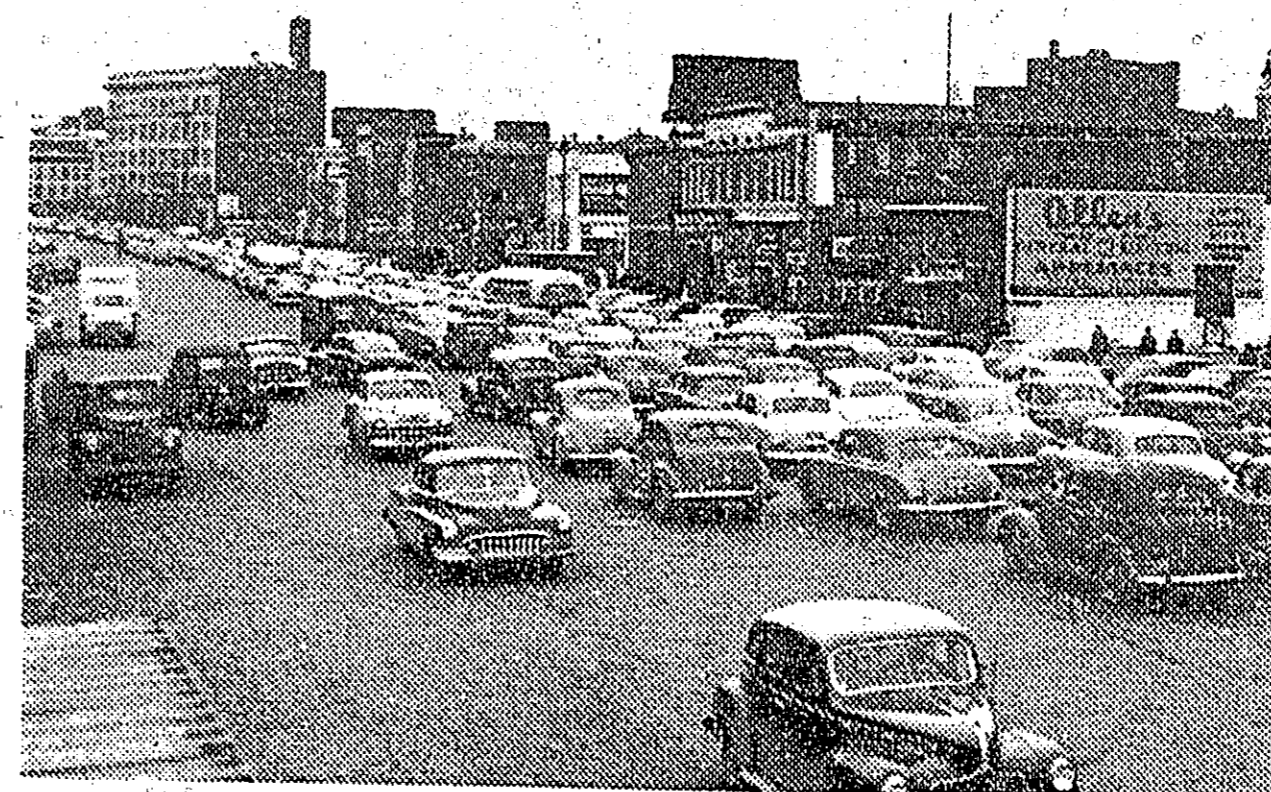
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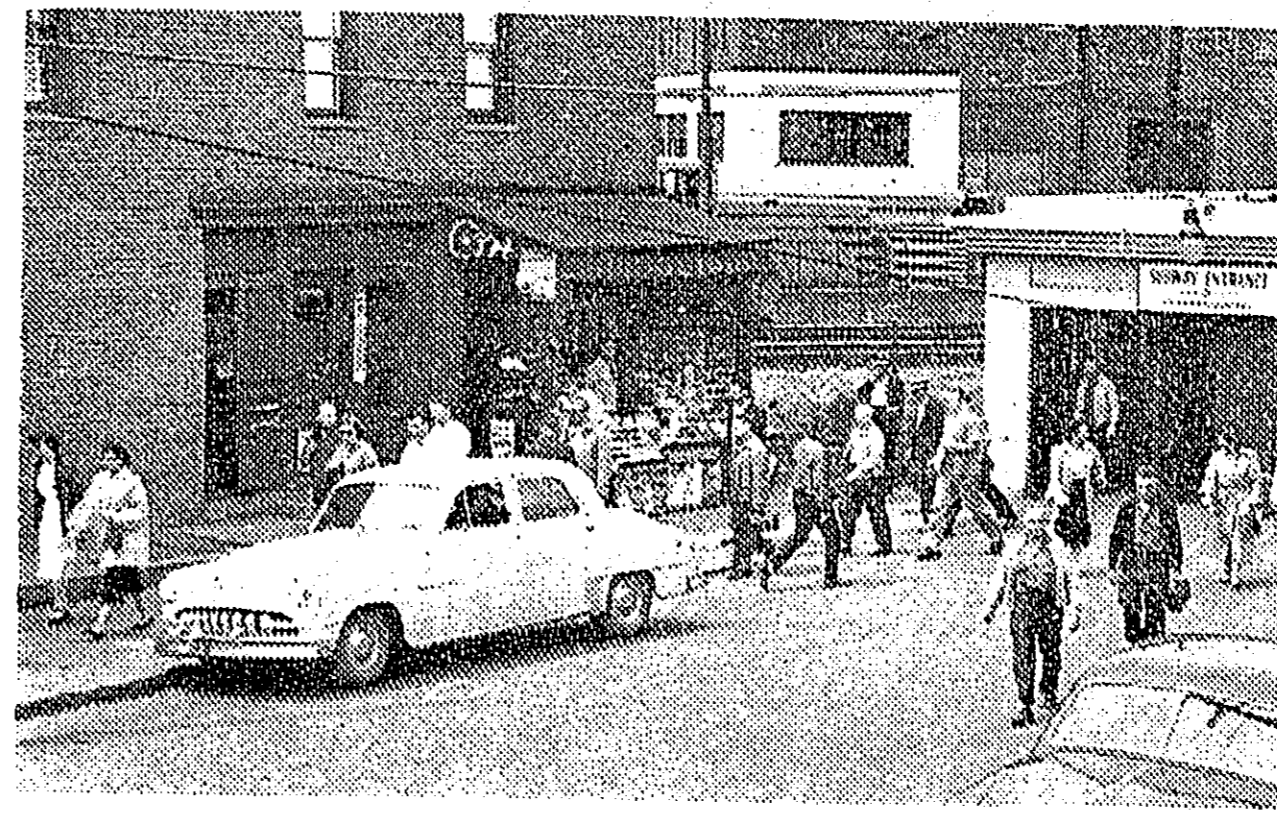
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, May 22, 1953

## 20,000 WALK OUT IN PROTEST



**GOING HOME.** Usually Erie Blvd. is almost deserted at 2:30 in the afternoon, but Tuesday, when 20,000 GE workers went home early in protest against the company refusal to negotiate in good faith, it was another story. The picture above shows the line of cars, stretching as far as the camera eye could see, pouring out of the plant. Below, is a picture taken at the Subway gate as the first of the protesting group walked out of the works. A few minutes later, this trickle had turned into a mighty stream of protesting workers, but by that time BU News photographer Sam De Cesare had gone around to the main gate to snap the top picture.



## Night Shift Turned Out Too

Despite some efforts by the company to intimidate workers after the first shift had turned out nearly 100% in Tuesday's protest walkout, employees on both 2nd and 3rd shifts poured out of the GE works with the same unanimity had been shown by their fellow unionists during the day.

Intimidation efforts took the form of spreading rumors of a company lockout or some other disciplinary action in reprisal for further work stoppages. But these efforts didn't make a dent in the militancy of the workers.

The final hours of the 2nd shift saw the shops deserted just as they

had been during the day. The demonstration by 3rd shift workers took on an even more dramatic aspect as their cars pouring out of the plant tied up inbound first shift traffic along Erie Blvd., Broadway and the other main streets leading into the works.

All in all, the demonstration should have made it clear to General Electric that, regardless of shift, Schenectady GE workers were determined to force the company to negotiate honestly, to grant payment for the two Saturday holidays and to back up the national negotiating committee in all of the demands adopted by the union membership.

Even the company was forced to admit that the GE workers were united. In releases to the newspapers, Works Manager Lewis Male conceded that "80% of the workers" had gone home. Male was about four-fifths right. In his statement to the press, the Schenectady manager said that the "union had not informed the company as to the reason for the stoppage.

For Male's enlightenment, here are some of the reasons that 20,000 men and women chose to leave work early on Tuesday afternoon. With the demonstration, GE workers told the company:

"Bargain in good faith! We have fought for 20 years to win recognition for our union, and we are determined to keep the conditions we have won through UE.

"Stop the holiday steal! We are entitled to payment for Memorial Day and July 4th, and we do not want to lose that payment on a technicality!

"Grant us a wage increase which amounts to more than 'pennants.' GE's profits were huge in 1952, and they are 58% higher in 1953. We earned those profits for the company and are entitled to a fair share!

"Deal with the inequities in an honest manner! Day workers, skilled craftsmen and women are the victims of wage discrimination which must be stopped through special pay boosts!

"End geographical differentials! We want to keep our jobs at decent wage levels without the constant threat of 'runaways' to low wage areas!"

"Do all of these things or face a fight from every Schenectady GE worker! We have shown you that we know how to fight together with this demonstration! Now show us you know how to bargain in good faith!"

## UE Radio Features Story of Walkout

Radio listeners in the Capital District this week heard the reasons for the huge demonstration of GE workers in Schenectady directly from the workers themselves.

The direct reports were made possible by the UE Local 301 program, UE on the Air, which is broadcast daily between 6:45 and 6:50 in the morning over station WTRY.

Thursday morning's broadcast featured sidewalk interviews with demonstrating workers recorded as they left the plant through the Subway gate on Tuesday afternoon. A half-dozen union members put their demands for honest negotiations, a decent wage increase, elimination of inequities and payment for the Saturday holidays on record. Speakers included Lillian Butler, Bldg. 46; Troy Snipes, 46; Mike Rakvicka, 49; George Hubert, 40; George Galen, 40, and Robert Anderson, 16.

In other programs this week, the UE on the Air show featured a report on the union's Louisville organizing drive by 301 Chief Shop Steward Bill Mastriani, a discussion of the local compensation service by Attorney Leon Novak and a discussion of the demands of skilled workers by Robert Wilson, a toolmaker in 28.

The radio programs have stirred wide interest in the shop, where 301 members have expressed satisfaction with the opportunity to hear their fellow workers talk about their problems.

## Vote Summer Slate

Local 301's membership meeting Monday voted to go on a special summer schedule for July and August. Under the new program, membership and stewards' meetings would be combined, while the executive board, which now meets twice a month would hold its meetings monthly. Emergency meetings could be called if a special situation arises.

## UE 301 ON THE JOB!

**Bldg. 11:** Lewis Clute asked for a stator winding job, vacant for some time on 2nd shift. Recently, 2 men were added to stator winding group and Clute was bypassed. The union demands that this worker be given an opportunity for the upgrading he deserves.

**Bldg. 14:** Kenneth Quillo is classified as an accumulator. For about 9 months, he has been performing duties of job described as "prepare for shipment-supply parts." The union demands that he be given the higher classification with a retroactive rate increase.

**Bldg. 15:** Pre- and blank job drawing M9134739-2 was issued without a price. After operator had made 700 blanks in 3 hours, a price of \$2 per thousand special was issued. The union demands that average earnings be paid to operator for full time spent on the job.

**Bldg. 17:** Price on stator pu. 495443, s.o. 215-4026TK, card 1873, the price is inadequate for the work and speed involved. The union demands a price adjustment which would enable the operator to make satisfactory earnings.

Price on rotor pu. 9778710, s.o. 437-2074, card 41 is inadequate for work and speed involved. The union demands price adjustment to make possible satisfactory earnings.

William Mias is classified as a tallyman, but is performing leader's duties. The union demands reclassification.

Dominick Stigioranni is classified as a C toolroom machine operator, but is doing B work. The union demands that he be upgraded to B.

Price on job 214-6847, drawing 9347009, s.o. 251-1001 is inadequate. The union demands an adjustment to make adequate earnings possible for operator.

The union demands equal distribution of overtime for 1st and 2nd shift groups working under Foreman Tryon.

On 4/14, 2 women were sent home for lack of work although new people were being hired for the same type of work. The union demands that there be an immediate reduction of forces to prevent anyone losing time.

**Bldg. 19:** Automatic feed mechanisms were installed on enamel furnaces about 18 months ago to run turbine punchings. The mechanisms are no longer used, and their continued presence constitutes a major safety hazard for

the operators, who now run the furnaces by hand. The devices oblige demands that the mechanisms be dismantled.

Group working under Foreman Hotopy demands equal distribution of overtime.

**Bldg. 24:** Julia Pustai has several times asked her foreman for an upgrading, but is receiving no consideration. The union demands that this discrimination against a woman performing good work be stopped and that she be given the upgrading to which she is entitled.

**Bldg. 28:** Group working under Foreman K. Morrell protests the change in method on governor coil 182B210G1. This job has been running on a temporary price which should have been standard for over 2 years. The union demands restoration of old price as a standard.

**Bldg. 46:** On job 521B650-1, operation 4, 2 setups always paid a combined price of \$2.76. This operation requires 2 individual setups using same fixture, and a price of \$1.58 was arrived at. The union demands restoration of \$2.76 setup price.

William Wright is classified as a cam grinder operator with an A.E.R. of \$1.73½. The setup is performed by a toolmaker, while Wright has to wait through no fault of his own. He is paid only waiting time. The union demands payment of average earnings.

A recently-installed cam grinder has been given a timing rate of 82c. The skills required to operate this machine justify a much higher rate. The union, therefore, demands a 2-step increase in T.R. based on job content and rates for similar machines throughout the plant.

Lathe operators under Foreman Kliestath protest the taking away of the TG190 sleeve job drawing 9783512 because of the heavy work load. This job could easily be handled if the group was not required to work on jobs which normally belong to other areas. The union demands that the TG190 machine work be given to this group which was originally set up to do it.

Less than a year ago, after filing a docket, assemblers won an agreement from management that lowest classification would be C. However, in January, the B classification was introduced without the knowledge of the steward or the group. The union demands that the company live up to previous agreement and abolish the B grouping.

Hand profiler group protests replacement of metal shields between machines with curtains. This action creates a grave safety hazard since the machines are run at very high speeds and adjacent operators are in danger from hot flying chips. The union demands that the metal shields be left in the area.

**Bldg. 50:** Bernard Paquin is classified as a battery truck operator with approximately 2 years of service. He requested a recently available marker's job, which was given to another employee

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.

with 6 months of service. This is strictly a case of discrimination since Paquin was completely qualified for the better job and had the service. The union demands that the contract be adhered to and that Paquin be given the job to which he is entitled.

**Bldg. 52:** M. La Badia and G. Dupont protest the price of welding job 443-3022A-7081B19, which is completely inadequate. The union demands proper adjustment.

Two groups of 1st and 2nd shift welders protest unjust disciplinary action taken against them for allegedly doing "very obvious bad work." This "obvious" work was never shown to the welders, and had been done as much as 5 months before it became so "obvious." In fact, the work was paid for, indicating that supervision found it obvious that any faults in the work were not the responsibility of the operators. The union demands a management investigation of these imaginative charges to clear the record.

**Bldg. 60:** Standard price on job 8046696 has been reduced from \$1.25 per hundred to 90c per hundred without any change in method. This is a violation of contract article VI-5d. The union demands that the old price be restored.

Group asks that porter be assigned to their group. The porter who formerly worked there and left has never been replaced. The union demands assignment of this necessary help.

**Bldg. 68:** Recently jobs 4112731 and 5306007 were moved from one floor to another, and the A.E.R. was reduced from \$1.85 to \$1.48. The union demands that the woman now on the job, who are doing the same work as was done under the old rate, be given the \$1.85 A.E.R.

**Bldg. 69:** Violet Flanagan is classified as a G inspector on 5882-34 relays. She is entitled to a higher classification, and the union demands that she be upgraded to D.

**Bldg. 269:** During the week ending 4/19, Antoinette Madonna was paid average earnings of \$1.54 for 19 hours. This figure was based on her earnings period up to 3/1. It should have been based on the immediately preceding 4 or 5 weeks. The union demands that it be figured on this basis.

Paul Frederick has not been properly considered for upgrading from his present job as a large machine tool helper. The union demands that supervision be stopped from upgrading those with the shortest service and be directed to give Frederick his merited promotion.

**Bldg. 273:** Floyd W. Knapp has been given normal performance on his job when compared to the work on all shifts. However, he has been constantly harassed by Foreman Olsson. As a result, it was necessary to file a written grievance. When Olsson received the docket, he didn't even bother to read it. Instead, he went right over to Knapp and started abusing him, proving that the original complaint

was justified. The union demands that management restrain Olsson from further discriminatory acts against this worker.

**Bldg. 285:** A Bullard boring mill is operated in the AIGT section on 2nd shift. Along with the milling machine section, there is ample work for an inspector on the shift. Instead, supervision piles all the inspection on the 1st shift inspector, who has enough work on his own shift. The union demands that an inspector be assigned to the 2nd shift.

R. J. Jablonski was discharged for allegedly leaving 10 minutes before quitting time and having somebody else punch out for him. The union protests this completely unjustified and drastic action, and demands reinstatement of Jablonski.

Joseph Rossi is classified as a C inspector. He has been instructed by the foreman to check first pieces and altered jigs. This is an inspection work. In addition, Rossi is being subjected to threats and pressures from Foreman Willman, and is being overloaded with work. The union demands that Rossi be given his proper A classification with rate increase, and that the coercion aimed at him be halted immediately.

Campbell Ave.: Workers protest inadequate medical services and facilities at CAP. The location of the infirmary is not central, making immediate first aid treatment almost impossible, and causing frequent long delays in treating sick or injured workers. The union demands a management inspection to correct this situation.

**Racetack:** Louis Passikoff has been classified as an A machinist since 9/1/52. On 9/15, he received his present rate of \$2.03. He is entitled to the top A rate but has not received it. This is an obvious case of discrimination against a shop steward, and the union demands that it be halted and that Passikoff be given the rate to which he is entitled.

**Listen!!**  
**UE on the Air**  
**Every Morning**  
**6:45**  
**Monday**  
**Thru**  
**Friday**  
**WTRY - 980 kc**  
**It's Your Show!**

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS



**TURBINE COMMITTEEMEN.** Three new show stewards from Building 273 were sworn in at Monday's membership meeting. Pictured above are Frank Puterli, Roy Lyons and Robert Bell as they took the oath of office.

## UE Gained Industry's First Holiday Pay in '47 Contract

This year's fight to gain payment for the two holidays that fall on Saturdays, Memorial Day and the 4th of July, recalls the fact that it was six years ago that UE became the first mass production industry union to gain paid holidays for its members.

It was in the 1947 contract that the holidays were first won from GE as a part of a 15c hourly package. A straight wage increase accounted for 11½c of this package, while the six paid holidays (later raised to seven) made up the remaining 3½c.

Despite rumors circulated widely by company stooges, the holidays were not obtained as a substitute for a wage boost. At no time did the company offer to add the value of the holidays to the wage structure.

Rather the holidays were won in addition to a very substantial pay increase. It must be remembered that just a year before, in 1946, UE had won its great strike victory which brought an 18½c hourly wage increase. The 1947 hike brought the pay boosts for two years to 30c an hour. Even in those pre-Taft-Hartley, pre-split days, this represented tremendous progress in improving the living standards of the working people.

Under these circumstances, the Saturday strings to the holidays, which are tying us up now, were not considered important enough to block approval of the big economic package. The feeling then was that the strings could be taken off long before they meant anything. Only the Carey-led split in 1949 made this hope unrealistic.

In other words, the present holiday problem is a bit of unfinished business. Tuesday's demonstration by GE workers in Schenectady should go a long way toward breaking the company's "no bargaining" attitude on the holidays, as well as on the other vital negotiations issues.

## Toolmakers To Plan Fight For UE Demands Tuesday

UE Local 301's meeting of toolmakers will take place in the union hall on Tuesday at 8 P.M. Getting together will be all Schenectady GE toolmakers. Chief purpose of the gathering will be to discuss ways and means of backing the UE fight for a special wage increase for skilled craftsmen. This wage increase would serve to lift the present low ceiling placed on the entire day-work wage structure.

Tuesday night's meeting will be largely the result of a petition by a number of toolmakers in the shops.

The gathering is expected to stress the ability of GE to pay decent wages to its highly skilled craftsmen out of the huge company profits. The justice of the toolmakers' demands was emphasized last year by the recommendation of a panel of the Wage Stabilization Board. The board group urged a 28c hourly average wage increase for tool and die makers.

It was this recommendation that spurred the opening of UE's latest fight for more money for skilled workers. This fight was launched with a state-wide meeting of skilled workers from many unions last spring in Syracuse.

## Draftsmen Still Out

GE draftsmen in Pittsfield voted this week to continue their strike for a 12% wage increase. The draftsmen, members of an AFL union, started their walkout last week, and immediately established their headquarters in the offices of the Pittsfield UE Organizing Committee.



**NOW DON'T TRY TO TELL ME COMPANY POSTERS ARE THAT EFFECTIVE!**

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

## Need Volunteer Field Day Help

A call for help to make the 1953 Local 301 Field Day a bigger success than even last year's event, was issued to Monday night's membership meeting by Activities Committee Chairman Bucky Phillips.

The field day is scheduled for Sunday, June 28, at the Republican Park on Princetown Road. The park is particularly suitable since it has accommodations for approximately 1,000 people indoors in case of rain.

Phillips said that about 50 volunteers to help the activities committee would assure the smooth operation of the program now being planned.

In addition to a wide variety of athletic events and games, the field day will feature a big give-away program. Prizes in the give-away drawing will be announced next week. Tickets are expected to sell at 3 for 50c, with each ticket serving as an admission to the grounds.

Last year's field day drew more than 4,000 people and earned enough money to pay most of the cost of the big Christmas parties later in the year. This year, with much greater facilities available, the hopes are for a record turnout. Those interested in helping should contact the union hall.

## Blast NLRB Attack

UE Local 301's membership last week voted to denounce the latest illegal attack on the union by the National Labor Relations Board.

The attack is taking the form of a new set of illegal affidavits which the Taft-Hartley board is seeking to impose on members of the UE-Harvester conference board. These affidavits are a crude attempt to steal from UE the latest election victories in which the Harvester workers continued their string of victories over company-inspired raiding attempts.

A similar illegal affidavit order was rebuffed last winter when UE took the Taft-Hartley board to court and won an injunction forcing withdrawal of the affidavits. New court action has been started to kill the latest affidavits.