

GE Profits Jump To Set New Mark

The General Electric Company's net profits (after taxes) for the first half of 1950 were 66 per cent higher than for the first six months of 1949.

The January through June figure for 1950 amounted to \$77,415,000 net profits. It's an all-time high record for GE, President Charles E. Wilson announced. The 1949 figure for the same period was \$46,553,000.

Higher and Higher

If profits continue at the same rate during the rest of the year, as the signs all indicate they will, the total 1950 net profits will be nearly \$155,000,000. Last year's \$125,639,000 figure was the greatest in all GE's history. It topped by almost \$2,000,000 the previous all-time record rolled up in 1948.

In the April-May-June period alone in the present year GE cleared \$40,587,000 net profits, compared with \$19,850,000 in the same quarter of 1949.

Thanks to the IUE disruption, the company didn't have to share any of its huge profits last year with its workers in contract gains. And if admitted that it had 8.9 percent fewer employees in 1949 than in 1948. In other words it piled up its huge profits with the aid of speed-ups.

Dividends Increased

To date GE has put into effect a 3 percent pay raise, after clearing 66 percent more profits for the first half of the year. Its unsatisfactory contract offer on pension and insurance would cost GE a few cents an hour, but the company would take away from the workers far more than this if its other proposals were accepted.

In contrast to its 3 per cent wage increase, GE already this year has increased dividends 20 percent for its stockholders, over the record for the first half of 1949.

First Contract

Workers in the tool room of De Jur Amsco Corporation at Long Island City, who recently voted to have UE Local 1227 represent them, have won their first UE contract. Gains include a pay raise of 10 cents an hour, seven paid holidays, including those falling on Saturday, and standard UE provisions on night shift differential, seniority, overtime and grievance procedure.



Lunch Hour Meetings On Contract Deadlock

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tee to set up the machinery to take a strike vote at all UE plants in the GE system.

Some of the meetings also called for a UE 301 plant-gate meeting to take place immediately after the vacation shut-down.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau reported that in bargaining meetings Monday and Tuesday the company changed its position as to language of various clauses it wants to weaken or destroy, but the UE and the company remained far apart on major issues, including piece work guarantees, the right to negotiate wage rates, seniority, and protection of shop stewards from discrimination for union activity.

GE also is trying to freeze area wage differentials between plants in different parts of the country. The union committee raised again the question of three 8-hour shifts with paid lunch periods, but the company would not budge on this.

Negotiations will resume next Monday.

UE representatives again went over the weaknesses and flaws in the company's pension and insurance offer. UE demanded particularly that there be a real \$125 minimum pension, instead of the \$100 offered, and that the minimum apply to those pensioned for disability as well as to those already out on pension.

The company said that under

the plan as now offered, 68 percent of those retiring within the next five years would get \$125 a month or more, 6 percent would get the \$100 minimum, and 26 per cent would get between \$100 and \$125.

UE also asked that an employee's rights in his pension become "vested" from the time he starts, instead of after 20 years. Union representation in the administration of the plan also was demanded.

On the insurance proposal, UE negotiators objected to the heavy cost to the workers, and pointed out a number of flaws in the offer. The company committee said it would study the union committee's points.

Men Without Service Getting Many GE Jobs

The General Electric Company is hiring men here without service for a variety of classifications. These include screw machine operators, radio drill press and other machine jobs, as well as welders and common laborers.

Management claims it has to hire from outside because it can't fill the jobs from the ranks of laid-off workers.

If you know any laid-off GE worker advise him to go down to Building 1 and ask for recall.

Since the expiration of the contract GE no longer gives UE the list of workers laid off, hired or recalled. This makes it difficult to watch out to see that the company observes seniority.

Jobless Pay Hearing At City Hall August 7

A state referee will conduct a hearing, open to all members of the union, at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 7 at Schenectady City Hall on the claims of UE 301 that the wholesale layoffs in Turbine and Motor and Generator during the AFL Steamfitters' strike were not made necessary by the strike.

In accordance with policy of the State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance, the Schenectady office of that division ruled the 3,000 laid-off workers would have to wait seven weeks to become eligible for jobless insurance. The ruling was based on the General Electric's statement that the layoffs were caused by the strike.

UE 301's attorney, Marshall Perlin, will present factual evidence at the hearing to show that the great bulk of the layoffs were needless, or were due to GE's own production schedule.

The opportunity to present this testimony to a referee is the result of a meeting Attorney Perlin and a union committee had with State Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi in New York City July 11.

UE Wins Union Shop

UE won a union shop election at the Tung Sol Lamp Works at Newark and Bloomfield, N.J., by a vote of 1,578 to 55. The NLRB conducted the balloting.

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

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Lunch Hour Meetings Ask Strike Vote

UE-301 Wins Toolmaker Election; Challenged Votes Cause New Delay

UE Local 301 won the toolmaker run-off election last Friday but certification may be held up for weeks or even months while the NLRB rules on challenged ballots.

The UE victory over the International Association of Machinists was 266 to 226, a margin of 40 votes. The 54 challenged ballots could theoretically change the result, although the known facts show that there is not the slightest chance of its really changing the result.

UE Needs Only 8

If every challenged vote were counted, UE would need only 8 votes to clinch the victory. At least 10 of the challenged ballots are UE votes, and probably more.

Moreover, at least 10 of the challenged votes were of employees brought in to vote by the IAM even though the IAM admits the men have not been working as toolmakers. There can hardly be any doubt that these votes will be thrown out.

Apprentices' Votes

There were 42 challenged ballots cast by apprentices who the company says are unlikely to get toolmaker jobs when they graduate. The NLRB will have to rule on whether or not they should have voted. A substantial number of these apprentices voted UE, realizing that their chances of employment after graduation depend on being under the same contract as the rest of the plant.

Many on Vacation

Absences of many toolmakers on vacation was a serious factor. Without these absences the vote would have been high enough to provide a UE margin greater than the total of challenged ballots.

Insistence of the IAM on a formal ruling on the challenged ballots may mean a delay in representation of the toolmakers. UE is pressing for a speedy decision.

The UE 301 run-off campaign was conducted by a committee representative of most of the toolrooms, with the help of the Executive Board and the union office.

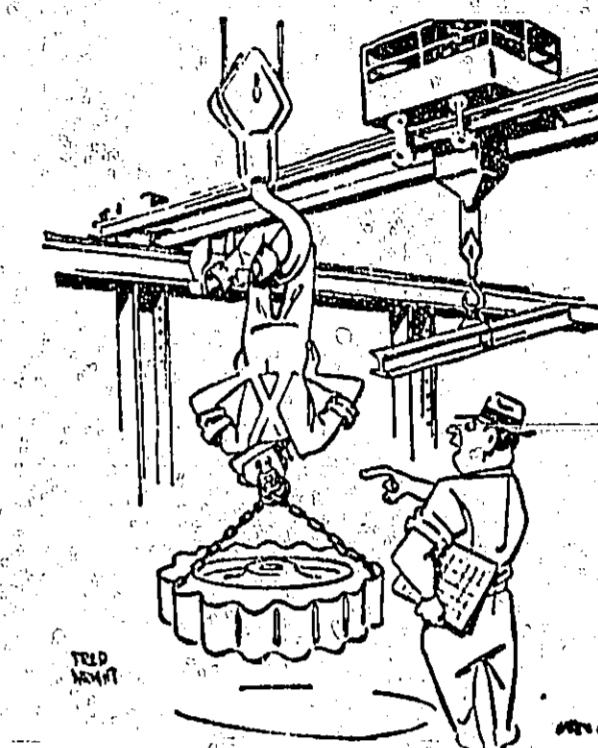
Hearing at City Hall Monday on Jobless Pay

The hearing on unemployment insurance rights of GE workers laid off during the AFL Steamfitters' strike will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, at City Hall, instead of at 10:30 a.m. as previously scheduled.

Because UE 301 plans to present evidence on so many claims for Turbine and Motor and Generator workers, the State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance obtained a larger hearing room than usual. This arrangement will permit a big attendance of workers interested in the issues. The hearing before the state referee will probably be continued Tuesday.

UE 301 has appealed from a state ruling that workers laid off during the recent steamfitters' strike had to wait seven weeks to be eligible for jobless pay. The union has a great mass of facts to prove that the bulk of 3,000 layoffs were not caused by the strike, but were needless or were due to GE's own production schedule.

Back the Contract Negotiations By Paying Your UE 301 Dues.



"What methods man thought that one up?"

UE 301 to Elect Delegates Aug. 15

Delegates to the fifteenth national UE convention will be elected at the UE 301 combined membership and shop stewards' meeting Aug. 15 at 301 hall. The convention will be Sept. 18-22 at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City.

Second shift stewards and members of UE 301 will meet after work Monday night, Aug. 14 (12:45 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15).

First and third shift stewards and members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15.

The UE 301 Editorial Committee decided that this week's issue of EU News should be cut down to a single page of paper as a desirable economy during the vacation period. About one third the workers at the plant are now on vacation.

Resent GE Attacks on UE Contract

More than 4,000 workers met in lunch hour meetings here last week and voted overwhelmingly to ratify the call to the national negotiating committee to take a strike vote of all UE plants in GE after the vacation shutdowns are over.

This was reported by the members of the 301 Executive Board, who conducted the meetings, at a special board meeting Thursday of last week. They also reported a strong demand from several of the bigger groups for a plant gate meeting after the shutdown, to discuss the negotiations.

The call for a strike vote was voted first by the July membership and stewards' meeting. The same position has been taken by the UE local in Erie, second largest GE plant, and by smaller locals.

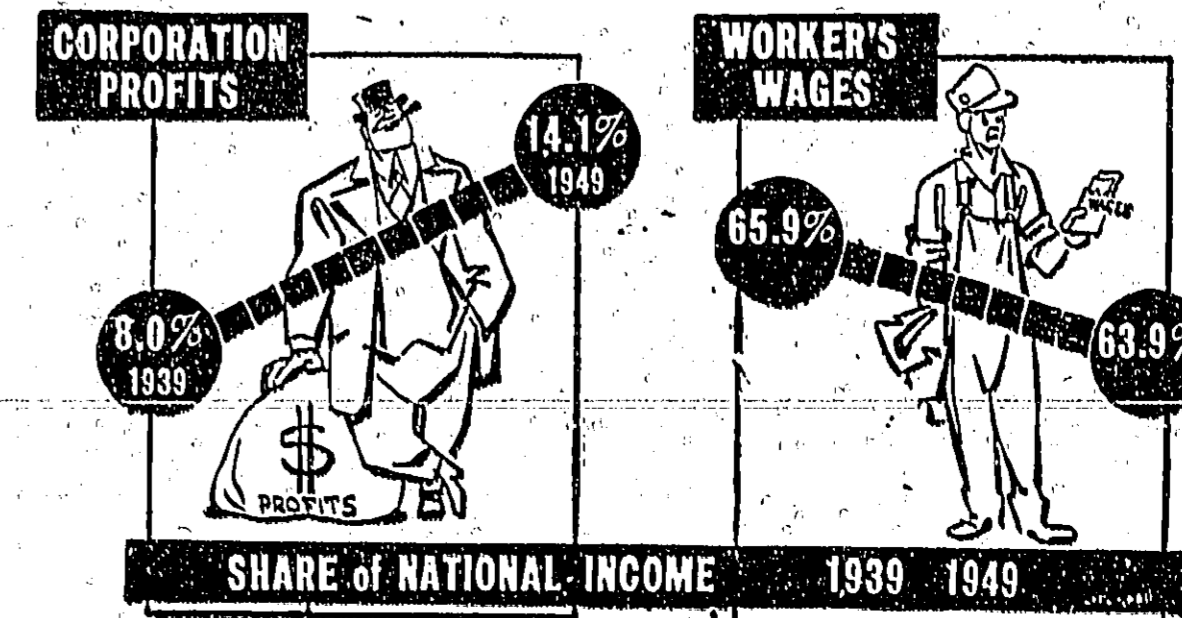
Last week's shop meetings acted in view of the continuing company demand to weaken or destroy major provisions of the old contract.

Negotiations were resumed this week, but Leo Jandreau reported Wednesday morning that the union and the company were still far apart. He said that some slight progress had been made on language in some clauses, but that the major differences continue over several of the most important provisions, including piece work guarantees, the right to negotiate wage rates, and seniority.

And the discussion still is on company efforts to chop down the old contract. There has been no progress on the union's proposal for new benefits to cover 1949 and 1950 negotiations.

Second Shift Social

A second shift social is scheduled for midnight Aug. 18 at the union hall. Tickets have been distributed to all second shift shop stewards. The price is 50 cents.



TOOLMAKERS— VOTE UE TODAY For HIGHER WAGES