

UE Urges CIO Unite On Workers' Problems

The national UE has sent to CIO President Philip Murray a copy of the UE convention resolution against raiding and dictatorship in the CIO, with a letter from the three top UE officers urging unity in the CIO.

The convention resolution called on Murray to do the following: Use his authority and influence to put an immediate stop to raiding on UE.

Discharge raiding CIO staff members.

Prevent CIO officials and staff members from spending CIO money to raid and disrupt UE and connive with employers against it.

Acknowledge the right of UE members to run their own union and designate their own representatives to the CIO.

These proposals provide "a reasonable, easy and indispensable means of reuniting the CIO on the basis of rank and file industrial unionism devoted to serving the economic needs of the membership," the UE officers' letter declared.

The letter suggested a meeting with Murray for a discussion before the national CIO convention "in order that the matter of raiding, secession and interference in the internal affairs of this union may be cleared up and the attention of the CIO Convention directed toward finding the best means of achieving jobs, security, and a better standard of living for all members of all CIO unions."

Don't Lose Sleep Over This Threat

The union office has been advised that in some shops foremen have told the members who took part in last week's plant gate meeting that this fact "is going into your record."

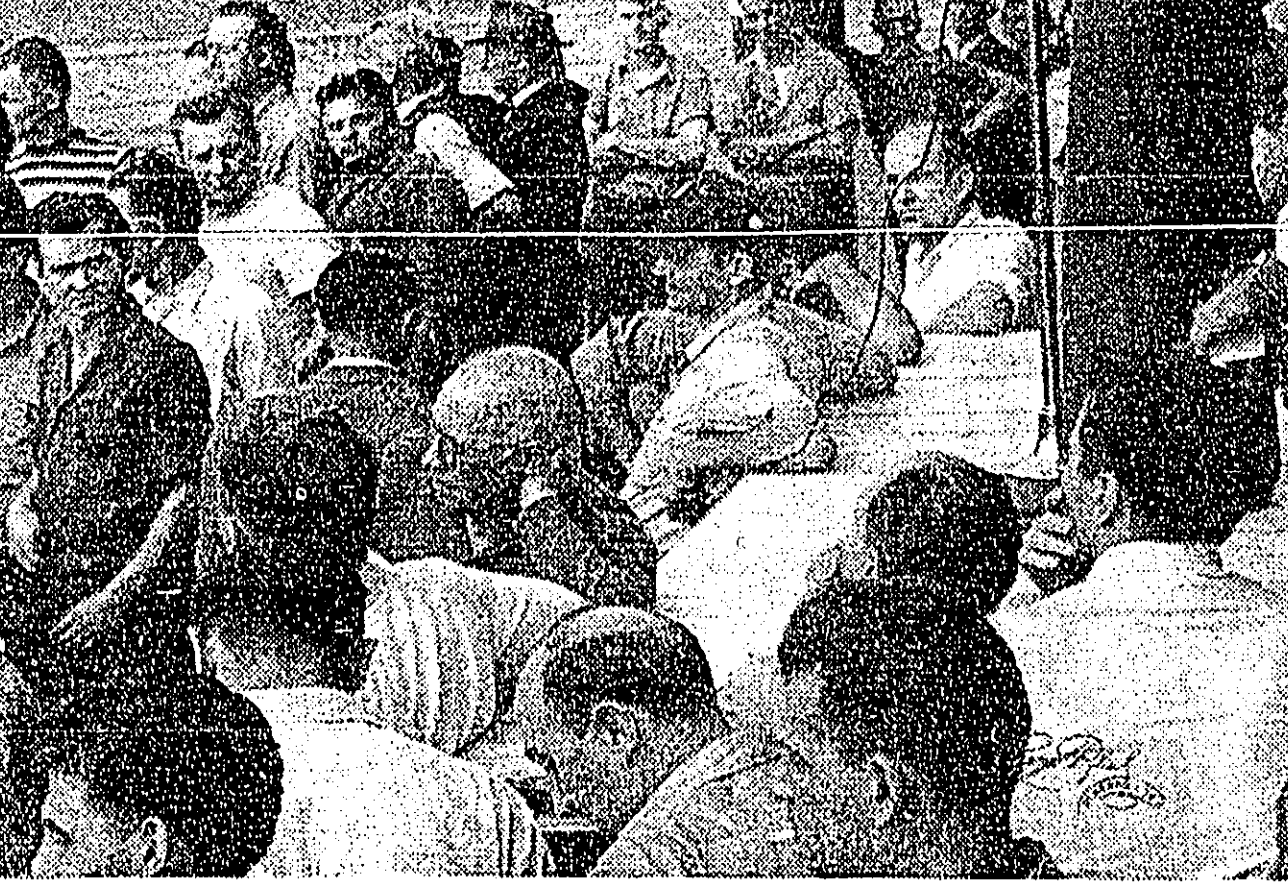
This is just another meaningless gesture, which is part of the attempted intimidation which was tried on the day of the meeting. Members are advised to ignore it. There can be no penalty for participating in an action of the whole membership.

Did You Know?

According to the General Electric Company's own figures, between 1940 and 1948 the company's average payment to a retired employee decreased 8 per cent, despite a 68.9 per cent increase in living costs.

Hodges Addressing 301 Plant-Gate Meeting

301 Vice-President William Hodges at the microphone reading a statement by Business Agent Leo Jandreau on the contract negotiations and GE's refusal to settle grievances, at the plant-gate meeting at 11 a. m. Wednesday of last week. Thousands of members left their jobs to attend the meeting, called by vote of the shop stewards. President Frank Kriss presided. Executive Board members are shown next to the speakers' platform.



Ford Workers Debating Contract Terms

Ford workers are expected to vote this week-end on acceptance or rejection of the new contract negotiated with the company by Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, CIO.

A vigorous debate has been under way in the Ford plants over the contract which Reuther has recommended. Its principal feature follows:

It establishes a pension plan under which benefits start April 1, 1950. At best this plan is likely to benefit only a minority of Ford workers. Ford pensions will be reduced by any improvements in the Social Security Law (paid for equally by equal taxes on employers and workers). And the UAW agreed not to negotiate any changes in the pension plan until March 1955.

Total pension benefits, including Social Security, are set at \$100 a month for workers who have 30 years' service and are 65 years old when they retire. The amount is scaled for shorter service and lower age down to \$50 for workers with 30 years' service who are permanently and totally disabled

and are 55 years old. A disabled Ford worker with less than 30 years service and under 55 years old gets no pension. Neither does a Ford worker who leaves before the age of 60, even if he has 30 years' service. Families of Ford workers receive no benefits after the worker's death. Service credits depend on the number of hours worked in one year.

All amounts of pensions are including Social Security. Under the bill which has passed the House of Representatives and is expected to pass the Senate early next year, a great many workers would receive pensions from Social Security close to or greater than the amount specified in the Ford agreement. Their payments from Ford would be little or nothing.

Under the proposed Ford agreement the company would also pay

21 Cent Raise Won In Longshore Strike

Hawaiian longshoremen won their 159 day strike with a decisive victory that gives them 21 cents an hour increase in wages. They get 14 cents immediately and the other 7 cents on Mar. 1. Eight cents of the wage increase is retroactive three to seven months.

The 2,000 strikers, members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union headed by Harry Bridges, withstood tremendous pressure to force them to give up the fight. They refused to be sidetracked by the recommendation of a fact-finding board that they get only 14 cents.

The United States government whipped out a new indictment against Bridges in connection with his citizenship papers. Congressmen attacked the loyalty of the strikers and the Hawaiian government went into the strike-breaking business with military guards. The five huge corporations which control the economy of the islands were so sure they could break the union that they refused a union offer to arbitrate the dispute. In the end they agreed to rehire all strikers without discrimination.

The International Longshoremen's Union also won the four-month strike of West Coast warehousemen, with a 10 cents an hour pay increase. The settlement also included upward adjustment of classifications and other improvements. It was far more than the pattern proposed by the fact-finding board in the steel case.

for slightly higher hospitalization benefits beginning January 1, 1950.

The agreement runs to April 1, 1952, and can be reopened once, on wages only, on April 1, 1951. This means no changes in wages or hours this year or in 1950.

Under the agreement the company retains the right to set "production standards," meaning the right to speed-up. This was the issue in last spring's strike.

The company also retains the right to discipline workers for participating in so-called "wildcat strikes." This must be considered in connection with the speed-up provision, as the Ford speed-up is the most frequent cause of stoppages.

The UAW also agreed to give up double time for Sunday and holidays in the Ford steel divisions, on the ground that steel companies do not pay such overtime to their employees.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

EXTRA

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MEETING TONIGHT ON CONTRACT

Come to the meeting tonight to get a detailed report on the GE's latest offer. The decision is up to you.

Behind the thousands of words of explanation by GE the actual offer amounts to new insurance and pension benefits worth about 2 and 1/10th cents per hour, with the employees required to pay about an additional one cent an hour. In return for this offer the workers would have to give up until December 31, 1950 any thought of shorter hours, higher wages, better grievance procedure, or any other benefits.

The contract now runs until April 1, 1950, the time when the need for a shorter work week with 40 hours' pay to reduce unemployment is likely to become more acute. The company wants the contract expiration changed now to December 31, 1950, with no reopening allowed on any point. The GE offer contrasts with that which RCA, another big UE employer, made after a strike vote. That included a 5 1/2 cent wage increase, comprehensive life insurance, sickness, disability, and hospital plan paid for by the company, a seventh paid holiday, 3-week vacation after ten years, and reopening on economic issues in April, 1950.

The meeting tonight is at 7:30 at the armory for the first and third shifts - at the union hall at 12:45 a.m. (immediately after work) for the second shift.

The GE offer provides for a life insurance, plus accidental death benefit, and sick benefits running from \$21.40 a week up to a top of \$30 a week for a maximum of 26 weeks. But whereas under MEA a worker can collect sick benefits while out on compensation, the proposed plan would cover only illness or accident not arising out of the job. The cost of this insurance and disability plan to the company has been computed to be about 2 cents an hour, with the worker paying 1 cent.

The pension plan is nothing but the present unsatisfactory one, but with an additional \$15 a month to be paid to workers with ten years service or more, retiring after the offer is accepted and before December 31, 1950, and receiving less than \$100 monthly. The \$15 payment would be reduced by any improvement in social security. This offer does not help the pensioners out now. Its cost to the company will amount to 1/10th of a cent per hour.

The company also wants vacation pay figured on a percentage of earnings. This would help some a little, at the cost of a loss to many.

COME AND HEAR THE FULL DETAILS

The company's attitude in making this so-called offer is in line with its attitude on major grievances. These have involved such things as:

Refusal by major divisions to correct lack of work conditions and blaming them on the steel strike; Saturday and Sunday work while some groups go home; violation of seniority in lay-offs; unfair firings and penalty lay-offs; lay-off of some workers and speed-up of those remaining; speed-up and piece price-cutting on machine operations; refusal to meet such highly-justified wage rate complaints as the tinsmiths'; and attempted downgrading of some jobs.

local 70 - uopwa

UNITE IN BACKING THE CONTRACT DEMANDS