

Albany Hearings Refute All Charges

Enemies of Local 301 Unmasked In Albany

Jandreau Statement:

It is embarrassing to the movement presently in progress wherein we are attempting to throw off the yoke of those who have long since retarded the Trades Union movement in the Electrical Industry to be required to deny the uncorroborated and unsupported statement of the witness Klein.

As solemnly as I know how, I state under oath now, before this Committee, that I am not and never have been a member of the Communist Party.

I realize that this Committee has set itself a task to perform. I also realize that there are innocent and loyal Americans who, like myself, must bear the odium of the accusation that has been made against me and which many people will believe without further proof. You may be sure that the most will be made of this by those who are opposing us in our endeavor to unify the workers in the Electrical Industry throughout the United States.

The leaders of this opposition have received large annual sums of money from the Locals comprising the International, for which the Locals have received nothing in the past five years except the embarrassment of association. That they will fight to keep this money coming into their coffers with every trick known to those skilled in trickery, you may be sure.

You gentlemen who compose the sub-committee, as lawyers, know that the uncorroborated charge of someone who is unknown to you would be insufficient to support any charge against any accused in any court of law. It would be insufficient to support the finding of an indictment.

Who is Kline? What do you know about him? Is he sufficiently a reliable person to be believed? In testimony taken before Congressman Kersten in Schenectady on September 30, 1948, a witness said of Klein at pages 535-6:

"This man Klein . . . who (was given) \$1500 to open up a book store on Nott Terrace, called Workers Book Shop . . . One day the book shop disappeared and all the books were liquidated . . . and Joe Klein had disappeared from the area with the proceeds of the book shop . . ."

Incidentally, this witness fixed his disappearance as best as the record can disclose as having taken place in the year 1937.

Is the testimony of such a person reliable? Or is a person to be trusted who testifies that his statement can be corroborated by a Communist Party member named Dorothy Loeb, but fails to mention that Mrs. Loeb was his own wife?

Speaking with all humility, may I say that for the last 17 years I have dedicated my life to the welfare of the workers of the General Electric Company. I can bring to you hundreds and perhaps thousands of American working men and women who will testify to my character.

I do not overstate the fact when I say that doubtless a number of responsible officers in the General Electric Company would testify to my character and my reputation for veracity and fair dealings even though we have sat all these years on the opposite side of the bargaining table. In addition to these there are a number of people in the community in which I live upon whose testimony you could put credence who would testify in the same manner.

I only hope that the testimony that has been offered against me here will not hurt the cause of the General Electric workers here and throughout the United States.

Any hurt that I may personally sustain I have the courage to bear and if the men and women in the Electrical Industry are not hurt, then perhaps I am not paying too great a price.

Contrary to the lies peddled by UE, Business Agent Leo Jandreau was subpoenaed before the Un-American Activities Committee last week.

He answered every question put to him in a manner true to the tradition of Local 301. He met it head-on!

Mr. Jandreau did not dodge. He answered every question forthrightly.



Leo Jandreau

So straightforward, in fact, that the Committee members were forced to congratulate him on his frankness. Congressman Moulder said:

"I must say, Mr. Jandreau, you should be commended for

your straightforward manner in answering all questions."

More than a dozen times the Committee tried to tie-in Mr. Jandreau with Communism. In each instance he showed how their suspicions were wrong.

Finally the Committee asked him if Local 301 was ever used as the tool for promoting Communist causes. This he answered by saying:

"Actions speak louder than words. Right after Korea was invaded, Local 301 went on record with a statement denouncing this aggression. You can't take action like that and also be a Communist."

In this manner the charges against him and Local 301 were devastated. At the same time the UE was exposed.

The Committee, too, stands exposed. For in this manner it let itself be used as a tool aimed at destroying the unity of Local 301 at this crucial time in our affairs.

The forces that seek to prevent unity of GE workers are powerful. They will stop at nothing. We have defeated them now. But we must be on guard in the future.



"Pipsqueaks . . . not good enough to carry the big guy's lunch bucket!"

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 1 - No. 4

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

April 23, 1954

100,000-Strong, IUE-CIO Begins GE Contract Talks

For the first time since 1948, the representatives of 100,000 GE workers sat down across the table from management on Tuesday of this week.

With Local 301 in the fore-

front of the fight, the IUE-CIO Negotiating Committee presented its demands for Contract improvements to GE. Major items among the demands are:

1. A substantial wage in-

crease.

2. Improvements in pensions and health insurance.

3. Eight paid holidays, without strings.

4. Equal pay for equal

work.

5. Improved vacations, and other improvements.

6. Guaranteed Annual Wage.

The demands are based on the needs of GE workers. Full recognition is taken of GE's ability to pay.

GE cannot deny that it is easily able to pay what IUE-CIO is asking. For instance, GE will receive additional benefits of \$90,000,000 this year as a result of the Government's ending the excess profits tax. Another \$15,000,000 windfall will accrue to the company from special tax benefits provided for plant expansion.

GE is literally "rolling in dough".

President Cordner raked up earnings in excess of \$1,214,991 during the past year. "This," pointed out the IUE-CIO, "is 11 times the salary of the President of the United States".

Other tax and stock benefits, plus the highest earnings in history, make GE the wealthiest corporation in the electrical industry.

Now, with GE workers united stronger than they have been for five years, we have a chance to make GE share this wealth with the people who produce it.

Unity at the bargaining table is the key. Therefore, let's consolidate our ranks for the election. Then when we have the outsiders off our backs we can really get down to the job of negotiating and make GE come across with some of the gains it has withheld in the past four years.



100,000 STRONG—Members of the IUE-CIO GE Negotiating Committee as they emerged from GE headquarters in New York City after their first meeting with the Company Tuesday. Second from the left in front row is Local 301 Business

Agent Leo Jandreau, with Conference Board Chairman John Callahan (Pittsfield); President James B. Carey; Earl Riley, Local 201, Lynn; and other representatives from Locals 119, 301 AE, 707, 805, and 901.

Another GE shop votes IUE-CIO. See story on page 3.

Scribner Goes Fishing—But Not for Trout!

BULLETIN

As we go to press, UE's outside attorneys are making all sorts of wild charges in Albany. They are trying to misrepresent facts about Local 301 finances — which UE tried to steal from our Local when we were disaffiliating.

Local 301's elected officers will take the stand in Albany and prove there was no mis-handling of funds or any violations that would provide grounds for any "contempt."

Throughout the week, the outsiders and their outside lawyers continued to interfere in the activities of Local 301.

In an attempt to disrupt the regular business of the Local, UE's New York City attorneys subpoenaed officials of Local 301 and took them over to Albany to appear in UE's court case.

UE started that case. UE said it had the proof to substantiate the case.

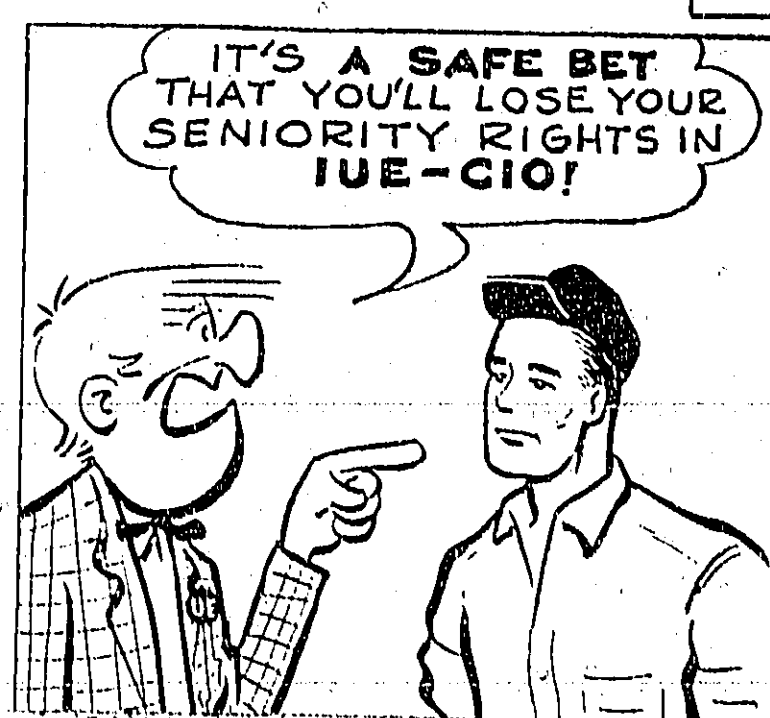
But now, when the case opens, UE admits it had no proof at all!

UE admits that it never had any proof of any improper procedure.

So in an attempt to find something, the outsiders subpoenaed elected local officials to be put on the witness stand in Albany. By long drawn-out questioning (which adds to the stall) these outsiders are engaged in a fishing expedition. They are trying to catch something that they hope will give them grounds for some sort of action.

But this fishing expedition has no bearing on the real issue. The people aren't fooled.

The issue now is the same as it has been for the last four years — how to unite GE workers?



IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301, REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee
 President.....James J. Cognetta
 Vice President.....Joseph Aloia
 Treasurer.....Joseph Whitbeck
 Recording Secretary.....Miles Moon
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 Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani
 Business Agent.....Leo Jandreau
 301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

T-V Tonight

Local 301 leaders tonight continue their series of T-V shows on the issues in the election. Be sure to see this late show for a last-minute report on the situation in the plant.

Time.....11:15 p.m.
 WRBG.....Channel 6

Back Pay Won For 3 in Bldg. 16

As a result of a fight carried to Bldg. 41 by Board Member Williams, three Bldg. 16 employees have won a retroactive increase on a new job.

The three men are S. Palumbo, F. Nader and F. Wallace. Foreman Nixon would only pay what the men were able to earn on the job while new tables were being worked out.

Williams was designated to handle the case. After a meeting with management the men received a retroactive adjustment from breaking in to the present time.

INCREASE WON

When Albert Armstrong, Bldg. 53, Specialty Control, was placed on job of Evac. Paint Sealed Relays he was started at a \$1.59 rate in violation of contract. As a result of a grievance filed by Shop Steward Catherine Hoffman the Company agreed to correct his starting rate and adjustment was made to two steps below job rate.

Layoff Halted In Bldg. 68

M. Rachiele of Bldg. 68 knows the real value of having a militant Local like 301.

Brother Rachiele, who has 29 years service, received a notice of layoff from a \$1.73½ piece-work job. His department offered him only a common labor alternative.

Then he was sent to the hospital, which put further restrictions on his job possibilities.

But Local 301 took up the case. The Local had the limitations removed and he was placed back on a \$1.73½ piece-work job.

Three days later, however, he received another layoff notice. Again the department offered only common labor.

But Executive Board Member Hank Kaminski took the case to Bldg. 41 and the result was that Brother Rachiele was again properly placed on a piece-work job paying \$1.73½.

301 On the Job

Bldg. 285: Group in Steward K. Smith's section are protesting the inadequate price on job V2236299 Operation 3. They demand a time study to arrive at a fair price. Board member Landolfo has been chosen to handle this case.

Bldg. 273: E. La Motke has received a notice of layoff in violation of seniority according to Contract. Board Member Gebo has been selected to handle this case in #41. Supervision is attempting to keep others with less service on the same kind of work.

Bldg. 17: A Glover, properly elected Steward under Foreman Reagles is protesting the discriminatory attitude of supervision. Board Member G. O'Brien will handle this case.

IAM Tossing In the Towel?

Has it finally become evident to the IAM representatives that they are headed for a shellacking?

It looks that way. As we go to press, reliable sources report that IAM is folding its tent and pulling out.

Therefore we urge all people who have been backing IAM to re-study the situation. Ask yourself this question:

Which Union can do most for GE workers?

That is the question that should be uppermost in your minds, for your vote should be based on which Union can accomplish the most for you and your co-workers.

The bargaining strength of 100,000 GE workers in IUE-CIO, backed up by the experienced leadership that has led Local 301 for the past 17 years, makes it obvious that IUE-CIO is the Union to back.

Support IUE-CIO and every Schenectady GE worker will be the beneficiary.

Minneapolis Plant Becomes IUE-CIO's 56th GE Local

Last Monday another GE shop joined IUE-CIO. In Minneapolis, Minn., the employees of the GE Apparatus Service Repair Shop voted to be represented by IUE-CIO in an NLRB election. The shop had been unorganized.

This was the second unorganized GE shop to vote to be represented by IUE-CIO within the past two weeks. The other plant was the GE warehouse in Cleveland, which became part of IUE-CIO Local 707.

The Minneapolis local becomes the 56th GE Local in IUE-CIO.

Long unorganized, the workers in the Minneapolis GE shop expressed by their votes the growing desire of GE workers throughout the country to unite in one strong Union. IUE-CIO, they agreed, is that Union, for it already represents 100,000 GE workers.

In addition to the Minneapolis and Cleveland plants, IUE-CIO also organized the following unorganized GE plants during the past year: Anniston, Alabama; Louisville, Kentucky; Linton, Indiana; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Philadelphia, Pa.; Auburn, N. Y.; Montreal, Quebec, and Quebec City, Quebec.

On top of that more than 22,000 GE members of UE have quit that dying outfit and joined IUE-CIO within the past three months. Those locals, which are now awaiting elections, are in Schenectady, Bloomfield and Newark, N. J., and Long Island City, N. Y.

Another Local Dumps UE and Joins IUE-CIO

Workers in another shop have become fed up with UE and are joining IUE-CIO.

Announcement of the decision of UE members at the Greenfield Gas & Light Company in Greenfield, Mass., to quit UE and join IUE-CIO was carried in the Greenfield, Mass., newspapers April 15.

This is part of UE Local 274.

All the employees of the company have endorsed IUE-CIO, declared Chief Steward Albert E. Kenrick. In this amalgamated local, the Chief Steward is the highest ranking Local Officer.

Throughout the country more and more workers are quitting UE every day.

And more local officers in different sections of the country have declared that their decision on the future of their locals "will depend on what happens in Schenectady." That is because UE has made them believe that "nothing is happening in Schenectady... All the stories you hear are just IUE-CIO propaganda."

Propaganda, eh? Well just give us an election, Mattes, and you will see that the only propaganda being peddled is by the UE!

Report on UE: Still Stalling!

Throughout the plant, the question is—"When is the election?"

The people in the shop want the election. Local 301 wants the election. IUE-CIO wants the election. The company wants the election.

But UE doesn't.

UE wants time. It wants to continue stalling. It wants to continue disrupting our affairs. It wants to keep on interfering in the Union activities of GE workers. It wants to continue its smear campaign.

We could have the election date set by now if UE weren't constantly calling, writing, wiring and otherwise contacting the NLRB to hold up the election.

UE is so bent on stalling that GE workers are wondering what the deal is. UE has long since ceased to even appear to be acting in the best interests of the workers.

The time for stalling is certainly over. Now is the time for the election. Stop postponing UE; give us the election and let the people decide.

Vote For 301 Keeps Increasing

The majority for Local 301 IUE-CIO continues to grow.

Again at the Executive Board meeting Monday night, Board Members from every building in the plant reported on the overwhelming support among the people for the move to unite GE workers.

Significant in practically all of the reports is that in the areas where the phony IAM "boom" got started a few weeks ago, it has since collapsed. Once the people got the facts on what a hopeless outfit IAM is, they wanted nothing to do with it.

(See story at right on how IAM has permitted the company to foist a weak, ineffective piece-price clause on GE workers in Utica.)

The UE, too, continues to lose what little support it had as GE workers become wise to the real reason it is stalling the election.

Furthermore, the Board Members report that the workers have seen through the UE lies about "lose your seniority," "lose your piece-work protection" etc. As a result, UE is exposed as an organization that will stoop to any lie or trick in an attempt to keep what few remaining members it has.

The major reason why the move is so overwhelmingly supported continues to be the desire for unity of all GE workers in one Union.

That was the major reason that prompted the Local 301 Officers, Executive Board and Shop Stewards to recommend the move in the very beginning. And that is why the membership voted for the move in such overwhelming numbers in the plant and then endorsed the proposal practically unanimously at the membership meeting Mar. 15.

And that is why GE workers will rack up the biggest majority in history for Local 301 IUE-CIO on election day.



No Wonder IAM Can't Sell IAM!

"What happened to IAM?"

That's a question many people are asking these days. For the IAM seems to have disappeared pretty much from the picture, since the first days of the phony "boom."

And no wonder!

For as soon as GE workers got the facts about what IAM really is, they wanted nothing to do with it. Facts like these:

- IAM has no National Contract.

Therefore it would be many months—perhaps years—before IAM could even negotiate what we already have in Schenectady GE. In the meantime, we would be completely without Contract protection.

- IAM represents only a handful of GE workers.

Therefore IAM is weak and does not have the bargaining power required to negotiate with GE.

- IAM's weakness in GE has forced IAM to call two disastrous strikes in the past year.

One of these strikes lasted 69 days. The other lasted 147 days. In both cases workers returned to their jobs on company terms. They were completely whipped by the company.

- IAM weakness in GE and its lack of knowledge of GE problems has caused it to sell out hundreds of GE workers—such as in Utica.

IAM represents workers at the GE electronics plant. Here is a typical example of the way it sold out the piece-price protection clause. Article XVII, Section 2 of the IAM Contract with Utica GE states in its entirety:

"If a piece work standard is in dispute between the company and the Union, and is scheduled to be re-timed, the Steward may be present during this re-timing and observe the conditions under which the time study is made."

That's all it says. There is absolutely no protection such as we have in Local 301 IUE-CIO to guarantee that the worker will continue to make the same earnings.

As a result, the company has a completely free hand to cut rates, speed up jobs and steadily reduce its employees earnings.