

## IUE-CIO Attempts To Stop Lynn Vote

IUE-CIO stalling this past week has been threatening to turn an NLRB conference to set an election date for Lynn GE workers into a record-breaking filibuster session. As this issue of the EU News went to press, the conference had been on for more than a week, with the CIO doing everything possible to prevent Lynn workers from expressing themselves in a democratic, secret-ballot election.

UE pressed for a quick vote. More than 6,200 Lynn workers have signed UE cards. In addition, the AFL has petitioned for Lynn salary workers. IUE-CIO has been trying to use this as an excuse to block a vote for all of the workers.

UE's position is that it wants office workers and factory workers to remain together, but that it is willing to agree to any legitimate arrangement to make sure that an election is held. One UE suggestion is that the two groups be "globed," that is that a separate election be held for each group, but that they be placed in one bargaining unit if their vote indicates that they want the same union to represent them.

The IUE-CIO is desperately trying to stem the growing UE tide in Lynn with its usual red-baiting. However, more and more of the workers are raising the slogan of "Unity of the GE Big 3—Schenectady, Erie and Lynn—in UE."

### 2 Pages This Week

Because of the summer vacation schedule, this week's EU News is made up of only 2 pages. Next week, the Local 301 paper will return to its regular 4 pages.

## Big Business Plot to Impose Federal Sales Levy Exposed

As the House Ways and Means Committee continues its hearings on general revision of the federal tax structure, the big business drive to impose a permanent sales tax on the

American people and further ease the relatively light tax burden of corporations has come out into the open.

President Charles R. Sligh of the National Association of Manufacturers, one of the first witnesses, asked Congress to revoke all present excise taxes except on liquor and tobacco and impose a uniform and permanent manufacturers' sales tax on everything except food products.

The tax, he said, should become permanent and the rate should be adjusted from year to year according to government money needs. He suggested a rate next year of 4 1/4% to 5%, which he said would raise \$10 billion.

President G. Keith Funston of the New York Stock Exchange then led a parade of Wall Street witnesses seeking widening and deepening of present tax loopholes, which allow big operators to hang on to millions of dollars that otherwise would go to the U. S. Treasury. They want the rate of the capital gains tax cut in half and the time which capital gains must be held out in half.

Under the present law, b money men can qualify for the capital gains tax by holding profits for six months. They pay 20% under the gains tax, whereas under the income tax they would have to pay as much as 92% on big profits.

The public testimony of the big business spokesmen was the culmination of a long and carefully planned campaign. For months Treasury experts have been working with the big business representatives on tax revisions. Sources close to committee chairman Daniel A. Reed (R, NY) said these proposals will be pretty much repeated when Treasury Secretary George M. Humphrey comes up with the official administration proposals.

Organized labor has denounced the general sales tax as hitting low-income families hardest.

### Move to Oust ILA

The AFL executive council this week recommended that the AFL convention which meets Sept. 21, oust the racket-ridden Intl. Longshoremen's Assn.

The council acted on a report by a three-man subcommittee, which found that the longshore union under the leadership of Pres. Joseph P. Ryan had not taken adequate steps to meet an earlier council ultimatum to clean house.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

## Bank Reports Corporation Profits Up 17% This Year

Corporation profits after taxes in the first half of 1953 totaled \$2.7 billion, a 17% gain over the first half of last year, the National City Bank August newsletter reported.

The bank's survey showed that profits were even higher than indicated in an earlier report by Business Week, which estimated the jump in profits at 8%.

The National City Bank study covered 550 companies, mostly in manufacturing but also including a limited number in the mining, trade and service industries. It found that for the second quarter of this year, the companies' net profits of \$1.4 billion were 8% above those of the first quarter and 26% above the second quarter of 1952. Over two out of three companies made more money than last year in both the second quarter and the first six months.

In contrast to the opening half of 1952, a "period of relative slackness in business," according to the bank study, 1953 so far "has seen record, or near-record, activity in residential construction, in business outlays for new plant and equipment, in road building and public works, and in the produc-

tion of steel, automobiles, television sets, household appliances and numerous types of other durable goods. At the same time, a marked pickup has taken place in the output of the textile, apparel, shoe and numerous other consumer goods industries."

Corporations amassed more profits by squeezing price increases out of consumers, the newsletter admitted. "In many cases," it said, "an additional factor in earnings improvement has been increased selling prices, including steel, copper, automobiles, household appliances and gasoline, as well as some foods, cigarettes and textiles."

Biggest profit jump, 78%, was shown by the steel industry, which made \$343.8 million in the first six months this year. Textile profits were up 34%, totaling \$39.5 million, and electrical equipment showed a 31% increase, reaching \$147.3 million.

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.

Bldg. 16: Richard Jandreski is employed as a B machine repairman. He is getting \$2.00 1/2 an hour. He has had this rate for a year, and is entitled to an increase to \$2.08 1/2 since his work record is completely satisfactory. The union demands that he immediately be given the proper increase.

Bldg. 29: G. Marvella is classified as an A mica sheet maker, job rate \$1.92 1/2. This rate is too low for the skills and responsibilities involved. The union demands that the rate be increased.

Bldg. 60: Paul Francis is classified as a B production follower. Foreman Lansing is utilizing him to operate fork lift trucks and passenger trucks, to lift and carry heavy objects and even to sweep the floor. This is a complete violation of the UE-GE contract. The union demands that management immediately stop these practices.

Bldg. 81: About 2 years ago, the name plate job was increased one step to \$1.44 1/2. Recently, other low rated jobs were reviewed and increased, but this job was given no consideration. The union demands a proper evaluation and rate increase for this job.

Bldg. 269: C. Juno is classified as a factory accumulator. Her duties are those of a production follower. The union demands that she be reclassified with proper rate adjustment.

Bldg. 273: John A. Miller was bypassed and another worker with shorter service was upgraded. Miller has 11 years service, while the upgraded worker has only about one year. The union demands that management immediately correct this violation of the seniority guarantees of the contract.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)  
Local 301

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# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

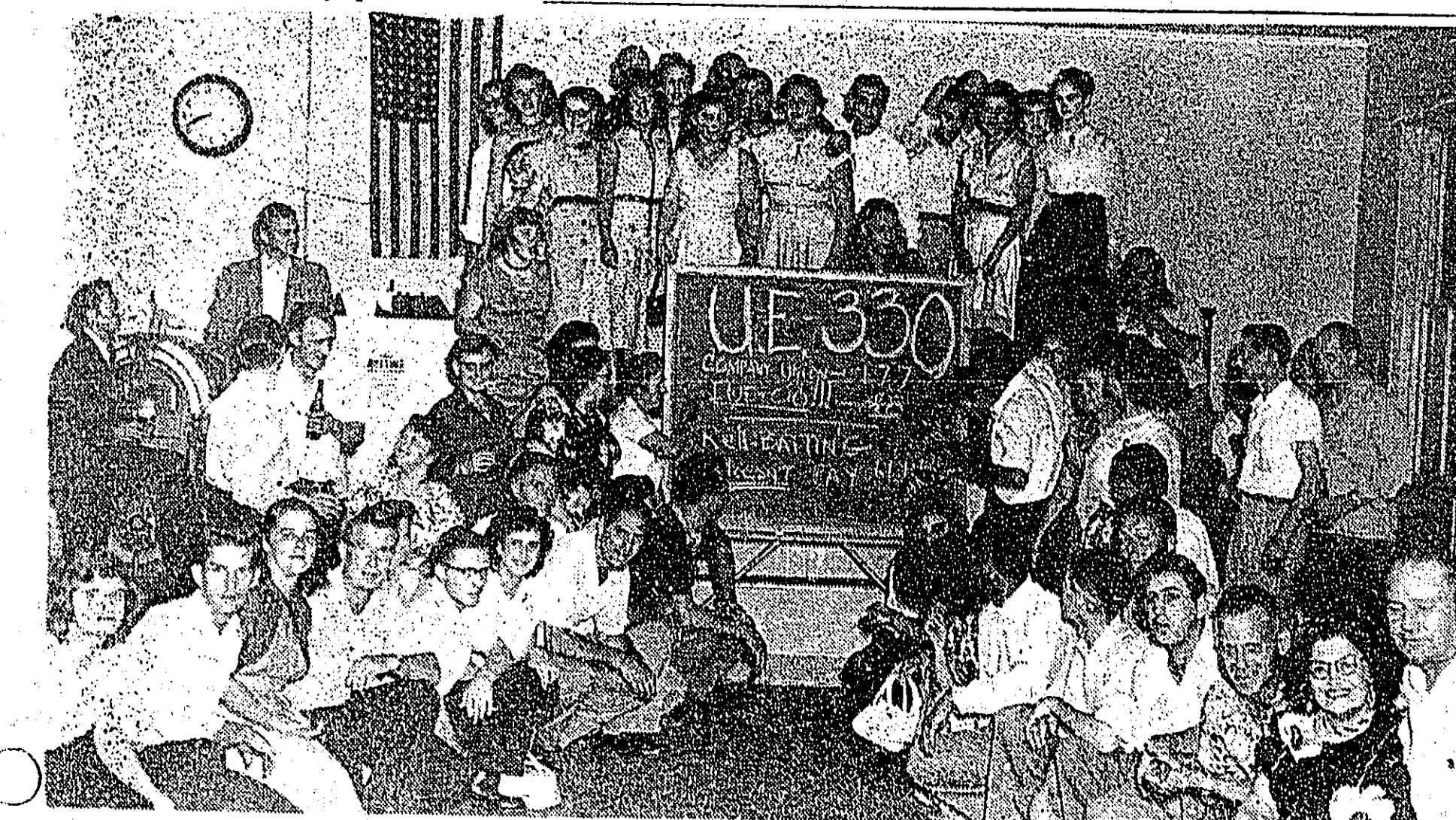
Vol. 11 — No. 34

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, August 21, 1953

**VICTORY SIGN.** Celebrating Mica workers gather in front of a blackboard which tells the story of UE's victory at the Mica Insulator Co. Hundreds of Mica workers came to UE Local 301 hall right after the election Friday night to celebrate the end of company unionism at the Broadway plant.

## UE Votes Bury Company Union And IUE-CIO in Mica Election



Six hundred Mica Insulator Co. workers rallied under the UE banner this week after crushing a company union and the IUE-CIO under an avalanche of UE votes in an NLRB election on Friday.

The Mica workers voted for UE by a 2 to 1 ratio over the company union, and by 7 to 1 over the IUE-CIO. The actual vote count was UE 330; company union 177; and IUE-CIO 48.

With their ballots, the Mica workers brought to an end the 12 year reign of company unionism in the Broadway plant. This reign had been marked by low wages and sweatshop conditions. During the years when their 20,000 GE neighbors had been making great advances under the UE, the Mica workers had been held back.

Finally, the Mica workers became completely fed up with the company union and its broken promises. Despite company intimidation which mounted as the UE organizing drive progressed, and despite the vicious red baiting of the IUE-CIO disrupters, they flocked into the UE.

Particularly significant was the stunning defeat suffered by the IUE-CIO. On the eve of the election, IUE spokesman Jack Suarez predicted a 3 to 1 victory for the Carey splitters. When the ballots were counted, the IUE had mustered only 48 votes, less than 10% of the total cast.

In its campaign of disruption, the IUE had poured in thousands of dollars to ply Mica workers with large doses of red-baiting poison. However, the Mica workers, their eyes on their neighbors in GE, refused to be diverted from the basic issues.

These issues, higher wages and decent working conditions, were constantly spotlighted by the UE in its organizing drive. The UE record in GE was held up for all Mica workers to see. Copies of the UE-GE contract were distributed to all Mica workers, as were lists showing the UE rates in the Mica Division of GE.

UE's campaign was headed up by Field Organizer Joseph C. Infante. He was assisted in the late stages of the drive by International Representative Michael Jimenez, and by Organizers Ed Lundy and Hal Portitz. David Fisher handled the UE publicity.

## Many 301 Members Helped UE Organize Workers at Mica Insulator into Union

Many Local 301 members made important contributions toward UE's victory at Mica last week. These contributions helped to end the threat to UE wages and conditions at GE that existed as long as a large company union shop was operating within a stone's throw of GE.

### Many Buy Admissions To Sept. 13 Clambake

Tickets for the UE Local 301 clambake were selling well in the shops this week as many members sought to make sure that they could take part in the September 13 event by getting their admissions early.

It will be possible to accommodate only 1,000 persons at the clambake so that it appears likely that only those getting tickets quickly will be able to attend. All shop stewards now have the ducats, which sell at \$4 each.

Ticket sellers are under instructions to give each purchaser a receipt. Then the stewards are supposed to turn the stubs into the union hall. The first thousand stubs will be exchanged for tickets. After that, the union hall will make sure that any persons who will not be able to get in, will get their money refunded.

The event is to be held at Republican Park on Princetown Road, on Sunday, September 13.

A number of 301 officers, executive board members, stewards and rank-and-file members went down to Mica in the mornings and at lunch time to help distribute leaflets, and to tell about their union over the UE loudspeakers. Among those who played active roles were Bill Mastriani, who devoted a week of his vacation to the Mica campaign, Joseph Whitbeck, William Stewart, Henry Kaminski, Vincent Palazek, Manuel Fernandez, Charles Scott, Anthony Villano, Jim White and James Cognetta.

Special mention should be made of the role played by 301 women in the campaign. The women's committee prepared and distributed a special leaflet to Mica workers telling them of the job being done by UE to end pay discrimination because of sex. Nearly 2 dozen women workers took part in this and in other distributions.

Perhaps the most important job was that done by 301 members who told their friends at Mica how UE operates, and what it has meant to the men and women at GE.

### Union Hall Receives Half of Survey Cards

About one half of the UE Local 301 stewards had turned in job survey cards to the union office by the beginning of this week. Those stewards who have not yet brought the cards down to the hall are urged to do so as quickly as possible.

Purpose of the survey cards is to determine if any 301 members are not receiving their proper rates. The cards provide spaces for the names of the workers, their job classifications and either their day work job rates or piece work AER's.

Each worker is expected to fill out his or her own card. In this way, the union will have a complete record of all jobs in the plant, and will be able to determine if the company is living up to the contract on wages in all cases.

The survey was undertaken after several reports had been received that the payroll department was not properly applying the latest wage increase negotiated by UE on the rates.



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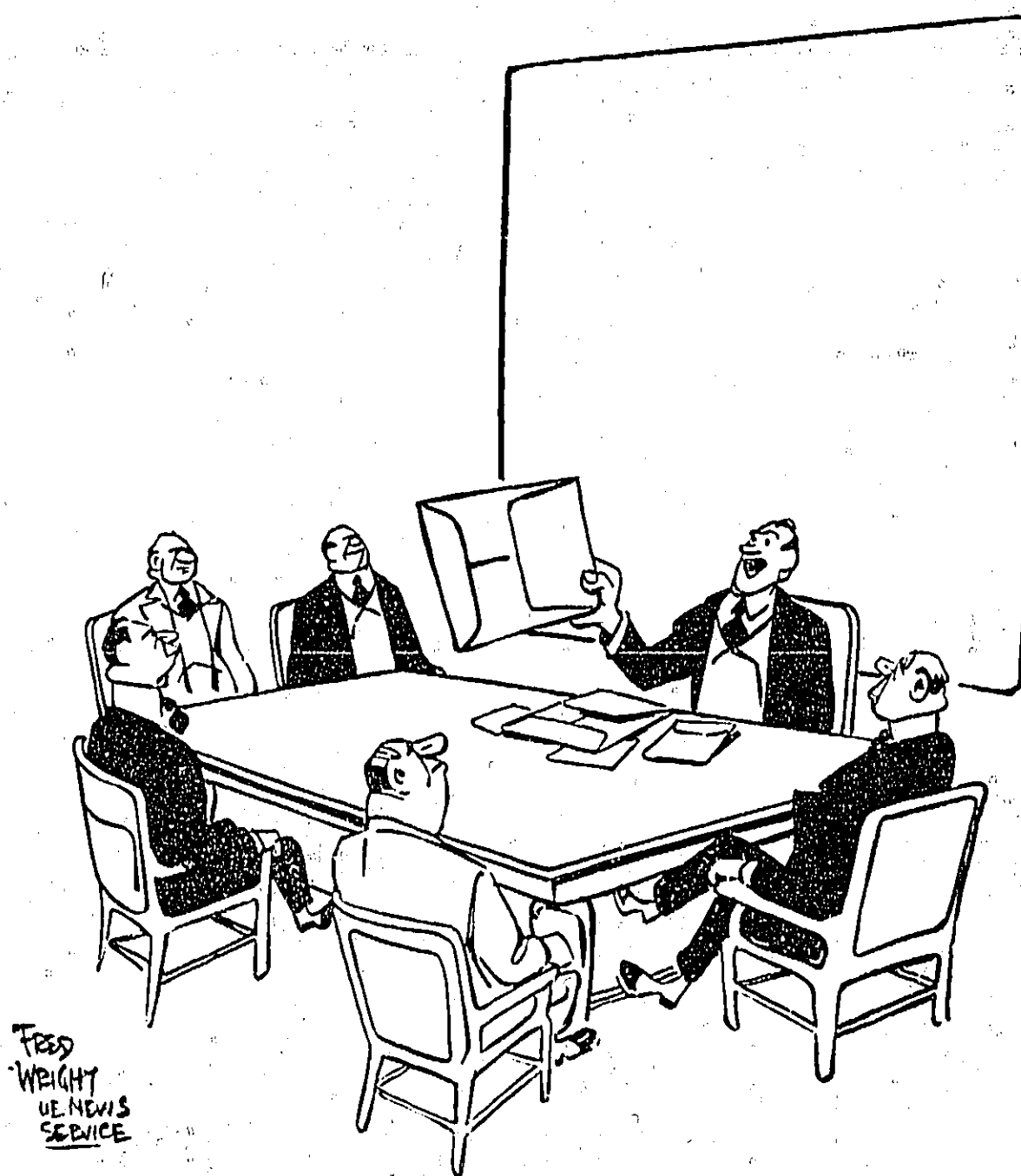
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UE LOCAL 301  
**MEMBERSHIP STEWARDS MEETING**  
2nd SHIFT  
Monday, Aug. 17, 1953  
1:00 P.M. (before work)  
1st and 3rd SHIFTS  
Monday, Aug. 17, 1953  
7:30 P.M.  
Local 301 Hall



FEED WEIGHT OF NEWS...  
OKAY, AS LONG AS THEY INSIST ON A BIGGER PAY ENVELOPE...  
BUT NOT A PENNY MORE PAY IN IT

### Women's Committee to Meet Next Thursday

UE Local 301's women's committee will meet in the union hall next Thursday evening at 8 p.m. On the agenda of the meeting will be a discussion of various grievances filed by women throughout the works, and a report on the completed job review which has resulted in the rates of 361 jobs

being raised. Refreshments will be served. Thursday's gathering will be the 5th women's meeting held since the UE national women's conference in May. These meetings have helped greatly to mobilize women workers for the fight to end pay discrimination because of sex.

## UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 49: The union protests because prices on jobs in the group under Foreman Cooley are being changed, and the old AER's, without the recently negotiated increases, are being used to establish the new prices. The union demands that management correct this situation.

There is not sufficient work for the piece work boring mill operators. Recently the group was increased, and at the time supervision promised to reduce the group when production dropped. The union demands that this be done.

Bldg. 60: Donald Bennett has been a tinsmith's helper for several years, although workers with less service have been given the B tinsmith's classification. The union demands that Bennett be given this upgrading to which he is entitled.

Bldg. 66: Group under Foreman Cook asks a reduction of forces because of a prolonged lack of work situation. The union demands that management comply with this request.

Bldg. 68: Job 9221226 was timed

recently and a standard price was arrived at without the agreement of either the steward or operator. The operator finds it impossible to maintain average earnings on the job. Therefore the union demands a price adjustment in accordance with contract article VI-5d.

Bldg. 269: Jacob S. Unser operates a highly diversified stockroom which includes an adjacent platform. The stockroom is classified as B. The union demands that it be properly classified as A, and that Unser be upgraded with proper rate increase.

Bldg. 273: Edward Hornak is a B lagger. Supervision has now hired in an A lagger, although previously Hornak was told that he was qualified for the upgrade. The union demands that management take action to remedy this situation.

James Tourtelott is employed as a tractor trailer operator. He hauls anywhere from one to 8 tractors between buildings, work formerly done by Transportation. His present rate is \$1.69, that of a tractor operator, instead of \$1.73½ tractor

operator, instead of \$1.73½ tractor

## Bldg. 77 Workers Protest Breaking of Union Accord

The company's so-called decentralization policy proved this week to be nothing more than an excuse for supervision in the Chemical division to violate agreements reached between the union and management. The result was the equivalent of a work stoppage in Building 77.

First signs of trouble in the building came when supervision announced that there was a lack of work situation, and that all workers would have to lose several days a week. This would have meant a loss of earnings over an indefinite period of time for the workers, without the opportunity to get unemployment insurance.

Shop stewards in the building immediately brought the case to the union hall, and negotiations with management were undertaken. This is when the decentralization buck-passing began. However, Local 301 was finally able to pin

management down to an agreement under which any rotation would be on a week-by-week basis, with the entire force working one week and off the next.

In this way, workers who lost time would get credit for waiting time toward unemployment insurance, and if the situation continued, they'd get the jobless pay itself.

However, no sooner had the agreement been reached, then the "decentralized" supervision took it on itself to violate it. At the end of last week, the company representatives in Chemical went around to some of the workers and asked them to come in.

Building 77 members immediately spotted this as a scheme to try to do the work with a smaller force, and to lay the basis for a permanent speedup and layoff. As a result, all the union members in the building refused to come in this week.

However, supervision was not done demonstrating its lack of good faith. This week, a number of the foremen were put on production jobs, in violation of the UE-GE contract. In addition, the company tried to ship materials to be worked by the "scabbing" foremen. However, union truck drivers refused to deliver the materials when they learned of the situation.

## Change September Meeting Schedule

Local 301's membership voted Monday to change the date of the September meeting of the union from September 21 to September 14. The session was moved up because most of the union officers are delegates to the UE national convention which is slated for September 21 to 25 in Chicago.

Since the first Monday of next month is Labor Day, this will have the effect of combining the stewards' meeting, normally held during the first week, and the moved-up membership meeting.

upgraded, he has been sent out of town to work. He did not get his full A rate until July 13. The union demands that the A rate be made retroactive to March.

Campbell Ave.: Second shift workers demand that an armed guard be assigned to the rear parking lot during their working hours. There have been 4 major thefts there in the past 4 months. In addition, whenever an employee is forced to leave work during the shift because of illness or another emergency, he or she has to walk around the entire building—about one mile—in order to get to the parking area. The union demands the assignment of a guard.

Racetrack: Raymond Smith is doing the work of a B machinist. The union demands that he be given the B classification and rate.

The union demands that management correct the situation in the Racetrack under which supervision claims to have no knowledge of any settlements reached through 41 negotiations. It takes at least a week for the foremen to come with answers to any questions asked by the stewards, and there is constant confusion, as well as repeated violations of agreements between the union and the company. This situation can not be allowed to continue, and the union demands that management immediately straighten things out.

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS



San Jose, Calif.—GE workers in the plant here have voted by 3 to 1 to maintain UE as their collective bargaining agent in an ALRB election brought about by an IUE-CIO raid. The count was 168 votes for UE Local 1007 and only 58 for the IUE raiders. This marked the second time in recent weeks that the IUE splitting activities have been crushed by California GE workers. Earlier, the IUE-CIO had been forced to withdraw an election petition in the 1,000-worker Ontario, Calif. plant because of inadequate support.

Chicago — The Butcher Workman, official publication of the AFL butchers and meat cutters, this month called on Sen. Joseph McCarthy to follow the example of his assistant, J. B. Matthews, and resign from his job. The labor magazine took McCarthy to task for his recent attacks on the clergy and commented, "Give the good senator a little more time and he will have the people believing that the Pope in the Vatican is the real power behind the Kremlin in Moscow."

New York—UE Local 475 has negotiated a 10c hourly economic package increase for the more than 1,200 employees of American Safety Razor. The ASR workers will receive wage boosts of 6½¢ to 14c an hour and a number of fringe improvements.

Pittsburgh — More than 1,000 CIO brewery workers in Western Pennsylvania have voted by better than 4 to 1 to turn down a proposal which would have provided a 12½¢ hourly pay boost this year and another 7½¢ next year. The union leadership had condemned the offer as inadequate.

Cincinnati — Wesche Electric Co. workers here voted 48 to 32 to maintain UE Local 766 as their collective bargaining agent. They repulsed a raid by the CIO steelworkers.

Washington — The United Mine Workers Journal this week condemned the proposed Butler hearings on labor as a "plan to grab easy headlines." Sen. John Butler Maryland, a close friend of Wisconsin's McCarthy, has announced that his Internal Security subcommittee will probe so-called communism in the labor movement. Butler is the author of a bill to establish complete government dictatorship over unions.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

## Review of Women's Jobs Brings Raises Of 3c to 21c for 361 Classifications

A total of 361 women's jobs have been raised from 3c to 21c an hour as the result of the just completed review of all women's work in the Schenectady GE works. The review was undertaken by the company in response to the mounting UE pressure for equal pay for

equal work. Up to now, it has been impossible to figure exactly how many women are working on the raised jobs, but indications are that it will amount to a large percentage of the 2,700 women in the plant.

In many cases, the raises brought jobs from below common labor rate (\$1.54½) to either the labor rate or higher. In other situations, the gap between the women's rate and common labor was narrowed from 9c down to only 3c an hour.

Many departments and divisions in the plant were reviewed including Carbon, Cable, Electronics, Chemical, General Engineering Laboratory, Research Lab, Porcelain, Sewer Machine, Large Motor and Generator, Small and Medium Motor, Aeronautics, Industrial Control, Industrial Heating and Carbology.

The report is now going over each party hereto will assist the union affected by such runaway tactics in its efforts to re-establish itself as the bargaining

completely eliminate sex discrimination in Schenectady.

## U. S. Survey Reports Earnings Below Needs

United States government figures revealed last week that the average factory worker in the U. S. earns \$10.17 a week less than it takes to support a family of four on a "modest but adequate budget."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported gross weekly earnings of production workers in factories averaged \$72.04 in mid June, an increase of 41c a week over the mid May figure and \$5.21 above the June 1952 figure.

In announcing the increase, BLS boasted that it represented a gain of \$13.19 a week over earnings at the start of the Korean war in June 1950 but added: "This 22½% gain over the 3-year period was partly offset by higher prices as well as steeper income taxes."

Using standard minimum family budgets and the latest government figures on prices, the Bureau of National Affairs, a labor-supported research organization, demonstrated that a worker with a wife and two children needs \$82.21 a week to achieve a modest but adequate standard of living. Thus the weekly earnings of the average factory worker are \$10.17 a week short of a decent standard of living.

## Two Unions Agree to Fight Runaways

A no-raiding agreement announced last week by the AFL International Association of Machinists and the CIO United Rubber Workers pledged the unions to joint action in combating employers who operate runaway plants.

The agreement followed the general pattern of the no-raiding compact signed earlier this year by the machinists and the CIO United Auto Workers, but the runaway plant clause was something new.

"The parties to this agreement recognize the danger from reactionary and recalcitrant employers who attempt to escape their collective bargaining responsibilities to either union by a relocation of their plant or business to another section of the country," the agreement said.

"Where this circumstance arises, each party hereto will assist the union affected by such runaway tactics in its efforts to re-establish itself as the bargaining

## 301 'Mop Up' Drive Bringing Results

Many more cards were received by the union this week as the UE Local 301 organizing drive continued in high gear. Biggest influx of cards in the "mop up" campaign up to date came on Monday when many who attended the combined stewards' and members' meeting brought cards in with them.

Aim of the campaign is to make the works as close to 100% UE as possible. Normally, about 350 new members sign up each month, but the August total, not yet fully compiled, will far exceed this number.

All stewards are urged to sign up non-members in their groups and bring in the cards as soon as possible.

NEW STEWARDS. Seven 301 members took the oath of office as shop stewards at Monday's meeting of members and stewards. Pictured on the right are John Bubela, Bldg. 46, and Edward La Mora, 273, sworn in at the 2nd shift meeting. Below are John Glywa, 40; William Maszalen, 60; John Pasquerella, 81; and Peter J. Strook, 269, all of whom took the oath at the 1st and 3rd shift session. Not shown is Edward Moony, 273, who was inaugurated as a 2nd shift steward.



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