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Union Presses Fight For Kressner, Hotopp



Hotopp Kressner

After winning the arbitration decision that restored about 14 years to the service records of Herbert Kressner and Herman Hotopp, Local 301 and the national UE office are insisting that GE make up various losses the two incurred as a result of being classed as shorter service men.

James Burnison of top GE management notified the union last week that the company refuses to pay for these losses. The union will press for full rights of the two men, however, including money due them for getting less vacation than they were entitled to. Another obligation of the company is to reimburse Hotopp for loss of pay resulting from his being trans-

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301 Stewards Back Steel, Mine Strikes

The following statement was adopted unanimously by the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night on unanimous recommendation of the Monday night Executive Board meeting:

"We urge the membership of Local 301 to do all they can to support the strikes of the mine workers and steelworkers.

"Their fight is our fight.

"The mine workers are fighting for a new contract and for enforcement of their pension victory of last year. After the major steel companies refused to accept the small benefits recommended by the steel Board of Inquiry, the steelworkers have struck to enforce that recommendation and have reinstated their demand for a wage increase.

"There is need for the greatest unity of all workers behind the just demands of every group.

"Already a press campaign has started to blame the miners and steel workers for possible lay-offs in other industries. We must understand clearly that the mine owners and steel companies bear the whole blame.

"Let's back the miners' and the steelworkers' demands and press our own just demands upon the General Electric Company."

Shop Stewards Urge Membership Unite To Defeat Carey Efforts to Wreck Union

The following statement, adopted by the 301 Executive Board Monday night, was approved by an overwhelming vote of the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night:

"James B. Carey and his followers have shown themselves to the membership of Local 301 as people who are determined to wreck this union if they fail in their attempt to turn it into a company union.

"We urge the membership to unite to root this evil growth out of our local. All talk of 'right wing' and 'left wing' only feeds the division which the outside forces behind Carey are trying to create. There will always be room for honest differences of opinion and honest contests for office within the union. But the fight against the Carey group is the fight of the

whole membership against those who would destroy the union to help the employers.

Tried To Disrupt Meeting

"At the meeting Thursday night, Carey and his supporters went all-out to achieve confusion and prevent a discussion of the problems before the members.

"Most of the members present at the meeting came first of all because of their interest in the bargaining situation and the possibility of a strike. Yet the Carey forces moved immediately to postpone the discussion of that ques-

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Stewards' Meeting Calls for Demonstration at GE Gates

Negotiations with the General Electric Company will be resumed in New York next Wednesday. The UE national negotiating committee will meet Tuesday to review the union's case.

AFL Leadership Urges Shorter Week, More Pay

The Executive Council of the AFL issued a statement this week closely paralleling the collective bargaining policies of UE which the James B. Carey faction denounced as "left-wing."

The AFL leaders took the following actions:

1. Denounced the recommendations of the Steel fact-finding board against wage increases.
2. Called for a shorter work week at a full week's pay.
3. Called for a drive for wage increases.

These are the very points which Carey fought against vigorously at the UE convention.

Appeals Won by 301 For Injured Women

Appeals handled by the union office for two injured women resulted in decisions that they are entitled to \$250 apiece from the General Electric Company for facial scars. The claims had been disallowed by a workmen's compensation referee.

The workers are Josephine Strenka, packer in Building 29, who was hurt last Oct. 23, and Ada Gates, Bldg. 40, injured last Nov. 12. Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, handled their cases.

Call for Blood

Blood donors are needed for Mrs. Catherine Kendrick, 78, of 320 Hulet St., who has been on pension for 11 years and is at St. Clare's Hospital suffering from leukemia. Five pints of blood are necessary at once. Volunteers should contact the union office or Helen Quirini. Mrs. Kendrick was a matron at the plant.

Cancer Drive

Local 301 sent a check for \$494.04 to the Schenectady county cancer drive, representing collections made in the shops through the stewards.

The 301 shop stewards Tuesday night discussed the negotiations and the many reasonable grievances which the company is refusing to settle. There was a spontaneous demand from the floor for another plant gate demonstration to be held soon to take up the difficulties in both local grievances and national negotiations. The proposal was adopted by the stewards with only a few dissenting votes, after widespread discussion.

Back Tinsmiths

In the discussion it was brought out that after taking their grievance all the way, the tinsmiths' group in Building 52 have had three stoppages over the company's flat refusal to give them the same rates as the electricians and steamfitters. For years they had the same rates, and the company has not attempted to show that they should receive less. The company has repeatedly refused to give anything. The stewards voted to back the tinsmiths' fight.

Another case discussed was that after the company agreed to apply the same progression schedule to the electricians as to the steamfitters, the company is now refusing to do so.

Real Unity Needed

Other cases were brought out of the company's increasingly unreasonable attitude, particularly since the splitting campaign by outside forces was whipped up in connection with the UE convention. Stewards pleaded for real unity behind the fight on the company.

Meetings of shop stewards in groups during working hours began yesterday, to discuss the negotiations in more detail. The meetings were ordered by the Executive Board.

A second conference of delegates of GE and Westinghouse locals upstate in Syracuse last Friday night approved the program of the recent joint GE and Westinghouse Conference Boards meet-

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Stewards Ask Unity Against Disruption

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tion so as to subordinate it to factional issues. If they had succeeded, they would have prevented entirely any discussion of the strike question.

"After the defeat of this trick, the Carey followers launched an organized campaign of booing, heckling, and drowning out speakers. It is unfortunate, but natural, that many honest union members were goaded into answering the disrupters by booing also. The answer must be to stop the disrupters and see to it that every member gets a chance to speak freely, as has been the practice under UE democracy.

"Free Discussion"

"The Executive Board of 301 has always welcomed an honest presentation of differing viewpoints on union problems. But Carey and his defeated presidential candidate, Fred Kelley, and their supporters, showed that they shout 'free discussion' only as an excuse to create the kind of disruption which was witnessed Thursday night, and which turns honest members away from meetings.

"Kelley and Carey have tried to cover up their secessionist moves by charging that the UE Convention majority proposed to secede from CIO. The truth is that UE is fighting to stay in CIO, and that any honest trade unionist must subscribe to the reasonable demands made by UE, that CIO stop raiding UE and interfering with membership control. UE, which made a major contribution to the building of CIO, will continue to fight for a CIO policy which will preserve and build CIO instead of destroying it.

Adjournment Attempt

"The vicious tactics of the Carey forces reached their natural conclusion Thursday night when Frank C. Kriss, followed by Frank Fiorillo, attempted to adjourn the meeting because they saw the vote on the convention report was over-

On Editorial Board



Snipes Kolasienski

The editorial committee, which directs the publication of the Electrical Union News, has been enlarged by the 301 Executive Board. The board recently added Troy Snipes of Building 46 and Adam Kolasienski of the Knolls I Research Laboratory to the committee.

The two names were recommended to the board by the editorial committee, which proposed that it be enlarged to widen representation of shop viewpoints in the direction of the paper.

Hope He Means It

L. R. Boulware used his propaganda page in the last Works News to say that the UE and company would meet again Oct. 12 (which the union had announced previously), and that the company would be "bargaining in good faith toward what is best for all concerned."

Now the members will wait for Oct. 12 to find out what the company means by all that.

whelmingly against them. This attempt to disregard the will of the majority has been and will be rejected by the Local 301 membership.

"We call upon the membership to unite without regard for shades of political opinion. Unite for a strong union controlled by the membership alone, without interference by any outside force."

The Executive Board adopted this resolution by a roll-call vote of 21 to 4. Voting "Yes" were Brashear, Joseph Kernaghan for Braun-eisen, Philip Cognetta for James Cognetta, Esposito, Friedlander, Henry Busse for Kaminski, Joseph Kelly, La Bombard, Mangino, George Walker for Mastriani, Pacelli, Quirini, Scott, Manuel Fernandez for Sisto, Spears, William Kelly for Stewart, Templeton, Villano, Jandreau, Green and White. Voting "No" were Bishop, Flanagan, Fiorillo and Kris. Hodges was in the chair and did not vote. Davis, Kuschel, Phillips and Watts were absent.

301 Stewards Reject Referendum Maneuver

An overwhelming majority vote of the shop stewards on Tuesday night rejected a proposal for referendum votes on issues which now are decided in membership meetings.

The stewards applauded vigorously when Leo Jandreau charged that the proposal was a maneuver of the Carey forces to keep the membership constantly split by factional campaigning and thereby make it impossible to bargain effectively or get grievances settled.

Jandreau pointed out that the people who talked about submitting issues to the membership were the same people who tried to prevent the membership from considering the issues at the Army meeting last week.

The proposal for referendums on "all vital issues" was offered by Stephen Watts, chief shop steward.

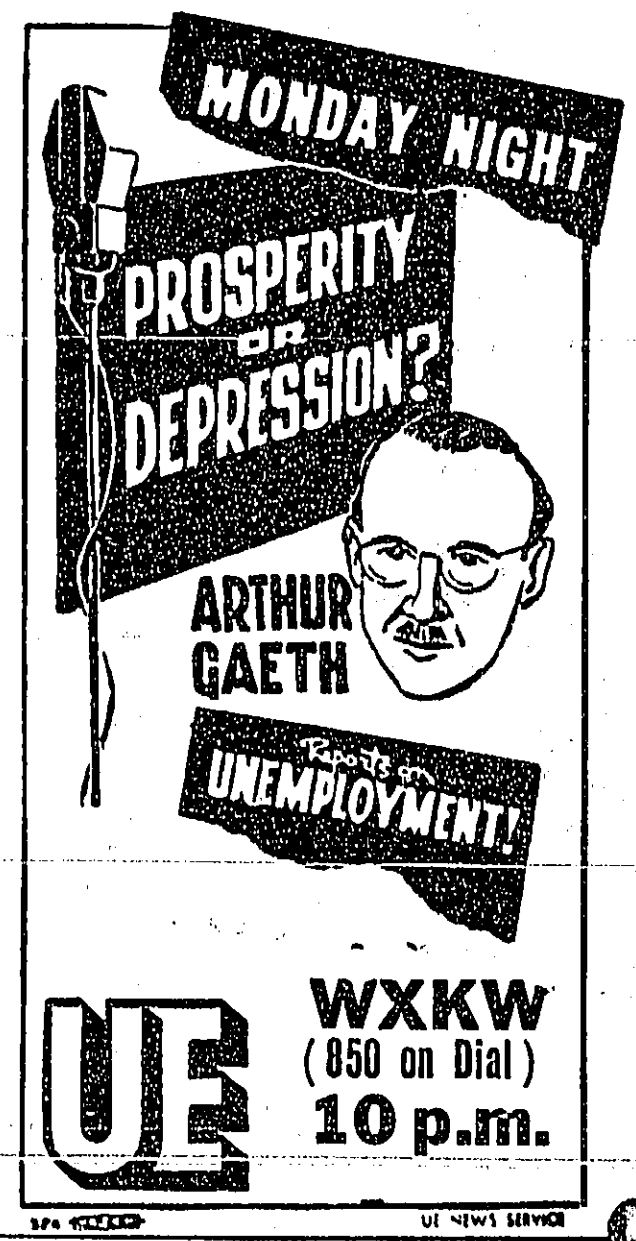
Watts argued that most of the members do not attend the membership meetings, and that therefore action at such meetings is unrepresentative. He said that certain board members and officers were "afraid" of membership votes.

Jandreau pointed out that the membership votes directly on all policy issues. They voted on policy when they elected delegates in July, with full opportunity for all members to vote, he said, and the membership will again cast a direct referendum vote on policy when they elect officers in December. He said experience had shown that outside forces use referendums as a field day for interference in the union's affairs and keeping the membership split. A series of frequent referendums would make it completely impossible for the union to serve the members, he declared.

Breaking-in Guarantee

Foremen are continuing their practice of telling transferred workers breaking-in on piece work jobs that they are given a breaking-in guarantee for a fixed number of weeks. This is just the foreman's opinion of how long it takes to learn the job, and is contrary to the union contract. The contract provides, in Art. XI, Section 2, paragraph (e) that:

"Piece workers who are transferred to new jobs where a learning time is necessary, shall receive 10 cents per hour more than a newly hired, inexperienced employee until their piece work earnings are in excess of this figure."



Kressner, Hotopp Case

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ferred off his job this year to a lower paying one. The transfer would not have taken place if he had been credited then with his full service of about 17½ years. Both men are now back at their tool room jobs in Building 17 following transfers. There are other retroactive obligations GE should pay.

Kressner and Hotopp were taken off jobs during the war by order of the government which forbid their employment on Army or Navy work. They were out of the plant for a period. Later the government cleared both men and withdrew objections and they were put back to work. GE rated them as "new employees", however, and scrapped their pension and other rights based on 17½ years of past service. Arbitrator James J. Healey ordered their continuous service to be reestablished in a decision handed down in August.

He pointed out that the two "were found guilty of nothing by the Service Command which forced their absence, except that they were born in Germany."

Urge Demonstrations

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ing. The upstate group will meet again after getting the company's final answer. Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Board Member Helen Quirini, William A. Stewart, and Dewey Brashear represented 301.

Help Yourself by Helping The UE Singer Strikers.

301 Votes Support For Bargaining Plan

Unanimous approval of the program of the GE and Westinghouse Conference Board of UE was voted by the 301 membership meeting Sept. 29.

The program ratified by 301 calls for plant activities to put pressure on the company in support of the contract demands. It authorizes the national negotiating committee to call for a strike vote if the company refuses to budget in the negotiations which will be resumed Oct. 12.

Jandreau opened his report by spiking a rumor that the membership meeting was to take a strike vote.

"This union strikes only as a last resort," he said. "When a strike is called, it is decided only by the membership which is affected—by a secret vote of the membership the way it was in 1946, the only strike Local 301 ever had."

UE Demands Are Justified

Jandreau pointed out that the \$500 package demand of UE, covering a wage increase, shorter hours, pensions, insurance and other benefits, "isn't something pulled out of thin air."

"It grew out of the needs of the people. We tried to estimate how much of a licking the average GE worker is taking.

"The problem isn't the \$500 package. The problem is to get GE to offer one cent."

GE Deaf to Arguments

Jandreau reviewed the company's refusal to consider the plight of pensioners, unemployed workers and the workers who are subjected to speed-up, transfers and reduced earnings.

"They are putting the speed-up throughout the entire company," he declared. "They feel they can get away with it, and with violations of the contract."

Jandreau said that the formula of the steel fact-finding board "is now being thrown back in our face in our negotiations." GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware used it in a recent "message" to tell GE workers that they needn't expect anything at all this year.

Criticizes Fact-Finding

"No fact-finding ever got anything yet for GE workers," Jandreau said. "We'll present our case the way we always do on our own merits. We want to say to GE 'Don't throw fact-finding at us. You face the facts. You've got the money.' The best way to help the Steelworkers, he pointed out, is to fight to get our contract de-

We Have the Same Trouble Here!



Stewards' Statement on Membership Meeting

The following statement was approved by an overwhelming vote of the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night on recommendation of the Executive Board meeting of Monday night:

"At the time that President Frank C. Kriss attempted to adjourn the membership meeting Thursday night at the Armory, no motion to adjourn had been voted or even offered.

"Kriss ought to know that in a democratic organization the president has no authority to adjourn a meeting. Only the membership has that right. Kriss acted in violation of the democratic procedure laid out in the 301 constitution.

"The meeting remained in session after Kriss left, and Vice-President Hodges, seeing that Kriss had abandoned the chair,

mands from GE.

Jandreau said that backing the Conference Boards' program means "you're not sending in the committee to GE with their hats in their hands", but with the power to deliver this ultimatum: "If you don't talk turkey this time, if you don't bargain in good faith now, we're authorizing this Board to take a strike vote."

'Security' Is Excuse GE Finds Convenient

Formal grievances filed this week on behalf of four toolmakers and one woman sweeper bring out the lengths to which GE's application of so-called "security" regulations is violating the contract and imposing severe hardships on workers.

The five were in the Control division and were laid-off for lack of work. Under their seniority rights they were given equal jobs, the toolmakers in Aeronautics and Ordnance and the sweeper in Electronics. They were told that as a matter of routine they might have to wait three weeks or more while government "clearance" is obtained. The union is insisting that under the contract it is up to the company to make arrangements that the people lose no more than one week at the most in the transfer.

While the "security" business is being used against workers, the GE turbo-jet aircraft engine J-47 was displayed at the Cleveland air races and the picture was carried in the magazine "News Week".

In the Westinghouse plant in Essington, Pa., certain workers were denied clearance for the turbo-jet engine section, but a cut-away drawing of the Westinghouse engine was given to the public at a Westinghouse "open house" at the plant.

Getting Monotonous

The CIO News, like the Schenectady Gazette and Union-Star, printed the claim of the Carey group about a petition with 8,000 names asking for a 301 membership meeting to be called Sept. 20. This mysterious petition has never been presented at the 301 office, nor was it produced at the UE convention at Cleveland.

ed the report of its convention delegates, by majority vote of the meeting called to consider that report."

The Executive Board adopted the statement above by a roll-call vote of 20 to 4. Voting "Yes" were Brashear, Joseph Kernaghan for Braun-eisen, Philip Cognetta for James Cognetta, Esposito, Friedlander, Henry Busse for Kaminski, Joseph Kelly, La Bombard, Mangino, George Walker for Mastriani, Pacelli, Quirini, Scott, Manuel Fernandez for Sisto, Spears, William Kelly for Stewart, Villano, Jandreau, Green and White. Voting "No" were Flanagan, Fiorillo, Watts and Kriss. Hodges was in the chair and did not vote. Davis, Kuschel, Phillips, Templeton and Bishop were absent.

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