

Officers and Board Members Who Will Steer Local 301 through '47



James Matles, left foreground, national UE director of organization, swears in the Local 301 officers and Executive Board members for 1947 at the Jan. 7 combined membership and committeemen's meeting. Front row, left to right: Board Members William Stewart, Mary M. McCartin, Leland Sisto, Charles Ferris, A. J. Spears, Sam Scott (as Shop Chairman of Bldg. 285), Dewey Brashear, Eugene LeMoine, James Cognetta, Al Pelrah, Anthony Villano, and Michael Tedisco. Rear, left to right: George Walker, guide; Leo Jandreau, business

agent; Marshall White, treasurer; Helen Quirini, recording secretary; Edmund C. Tanski, trustee; William Hodges, vice-president; William Mastriani, chief shop steward; James Kelley, trustee; Albert Davis, trustee; Harmon Cartwright, sergeant-at-arms, and Andrew Peterson, president. Not shown in the picture are Lillian Bliss, assistant recording secretary; and Board Members George Judway, Willard Kuschel, Anthony Esposito, Henry Busse, and Stanley Bishop (as Shop Chairman of Bldg. 69).

Gate-to-Gate Suit Deadline Is Monday

The deadline is next Monday, Jan. 20, for members to authorize the union to bring suit for them against GE for portal-to-portal pay. Committeemen have the necessary forms to be signed.

The suits are based on a recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Mt. Clemens pottery case. The court ruled that under the Wage-Hour Law workers are entitled to overtime pay for time spent within the plant gates, before actually starting work.

The exact conditions were not defined, as the Supreme Court only decided the principle and sent the details back to a lower court to handle. Workers involved have received no back pay yet and the lower court has not announced its decision on details. The legal fight to get the gate-to-gate pay started several years ago.

UE is taking action entirely in court or in discussions connected with the suits.

301 Dance to Aid Mercy Ambulance

The Activities Committee of Local 301 will give a dance Feb. 7 at Turner Hall, 863 Albany, for the benefit of the Mercy Ambulance. Music will be furnished by Larry Audette. Tickets may be obtained from the Activities Committee or shop committeemen.

Lanson Cole, chairman, has called a meeting of the Activities Committee for Monday night, Jan. 20, in Room 2B at Union Hall.

Legislative Committee

The 1947 legislative committee of Local 301 will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at the union hall to elect a chairman and secretary and outline its program. Albert Davis was appointed by the Executive Board to represent it on the committee.

Local 301 Approves Contract Proposals

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increase, but will not demand a specific amount per week.

Negotiators will point out that the GE workers suffered a loss of \$11.72 a week in their real wages since Jan. 1, 1945, despite pay increases. They will call on GE for a fair offer to offset the jump in living costs.

All speeches from the floor expressed approval of the 1947 proposals. Several members urged that the provision for eight holidays with pay be a "must." The importance of improving the pension system and of stream-lining the grievance procedure was also emphasized from the floor.

Jandreau said the Local 301 representatives on the GE Conference Board had stressed these points. President Andrew Peterson, Edward Wallingford and Jandreau were at the New York City meeting where the proposals were drawn up.

Electrical Union News

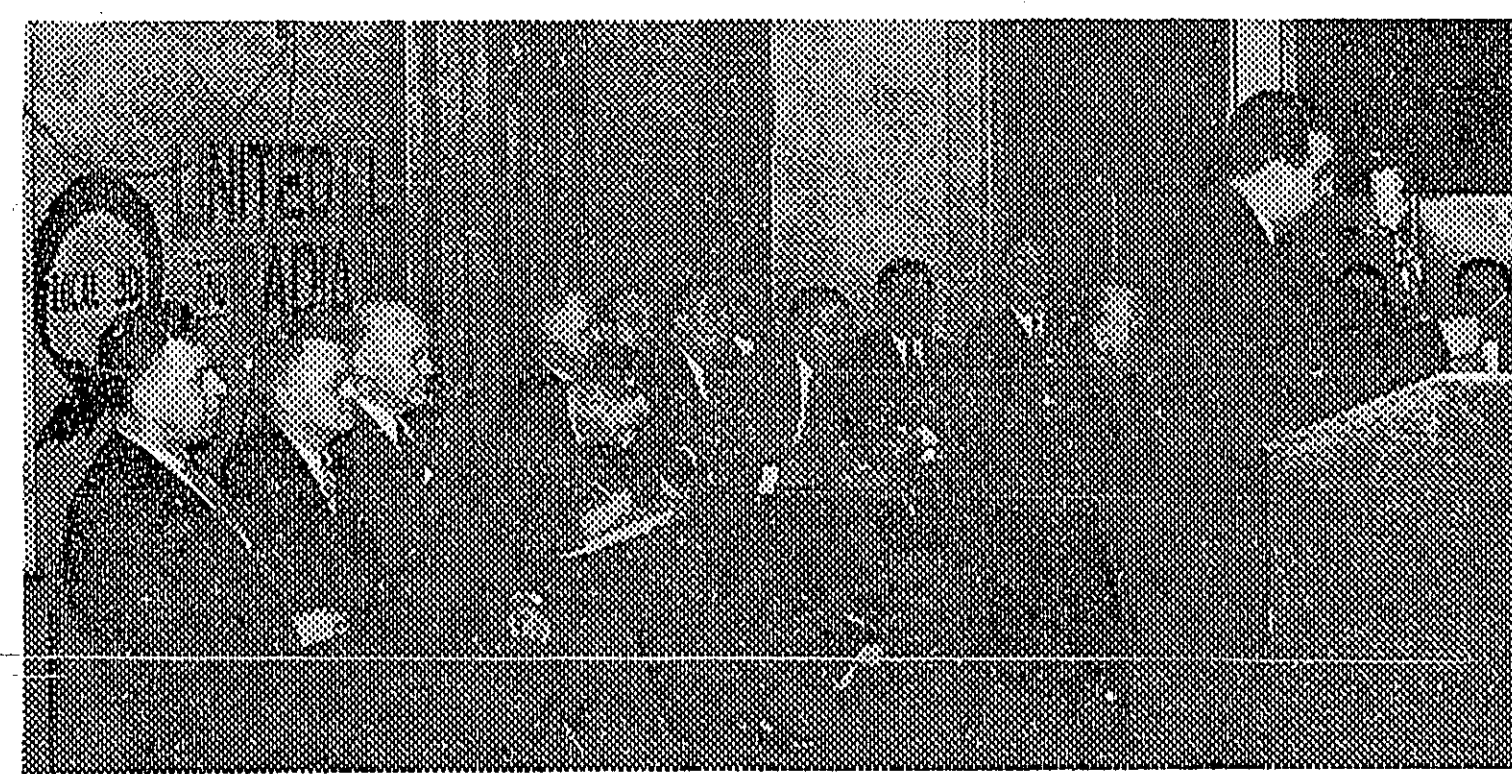
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Tool and Machine Men Demand Action



Toolmakers and Machinists met last week to hear their committees' report on wage negotiations for their groups, and to let Charles Wilson know they want more money. Above, Business Agent Leo Jandreau reports for the two committees. Members of the committees are on platform.

Daytime Meeting Backs Machine Crafts' Wage Bid

Toolmakers, machinists, and tool room machine operators on Monday backed up their wage demands by leaving work on their own initiative to meet at the Local 301 Hall and tell the company that they are dissatisfied with their present wages.

All tool room and most machine repair work came to a virtual stop by 3 p.m. as hundreds came up to the hall to hear a report on the negotiations. Hundreds more went home.

Another meeting was called for Monday night, Jan. 27, at 7:30, for a further report. The toolmakers' case was scheduled to be taken up with the New York general management of GE yesterday (Wednesday). The machinists' case (which includes also the tool room machine operators) went to New York this week after Louis J. Male, general superintendent here, refused to offer any improvement in either rates or progression for the group.

Men Organize Meeting
In coming out Monday, the men decided that a committee recommendation that they tell their foremen of their dissatisfaction with negotiations was not enough. So they organized the meeting.

The meeting Monday reaffirmed the resolution adopted the previous Wednesday night (see separate story on resolution).

At yesterday's New York meeting the toolmakers were represented by a subcommittee of Michael Tedisco, Building 17; Edward Wallingford, Building 60; and Anthony J. Esposito, 53, assisted by Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Male Says No
Monday's meeting with Male on the machinists was continued from Friday, when Male asked for more time to study the case. On Monday Male contended that the machinists' rates were high enough in relation to the toolmakers. He made no effort to meet the union argument.
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Board Recommends 301 Staff Lawyer

Because of the increase in legal and court problems of unions and their members, the Local 301 executive board has voted to recommend to the membership the retention of a lawyer. The recommendation will come before the committeemen on February 4 and before the membership on February 18.

In addition to the legal "red tape" and government regulations affecting unions as such, the Board took note of the fact that numerous members have had difficulties handling their claims to unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation before the state agencies. A lawyer retained by 301 would be able to handle these two specific legal problems of 301 members without cost to those members, and with assurance that they would be handled vigorously from the worker's viewpoint.

301 Radio Program

Remember the weekly radio broadcast of Local 301. It's at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over WSNY.

Wilson Passes Buck On Grievance Renege

Charles E. Wilson, GE president who has been making speeches around the country attacking labor's position on wages, feels that a charge of outright contract violation by the company is something he can pass on to subordinates without even looking into it himself.

On Monday night, January 13, President Andrew Peterson of 301 wired Wilson on the executive board's instructions, charging that the company refused to arbitrate grievances as required by the contract, and that this attitude was the cause of unsatisfactory labor relations.

There finally came a reply from Wilson on Tuesday of this week, saying:

"I am not familiar with the facts concerning the grievances referred to in your telegram. I am, therefore, referring your telegram to Mr. E. D. Spicer, our vice president in charge of employee relations, with the request that he look into the matter and communicate directly with you."

The local will again invite Spicer to comply with the contract. It will continue to hold Wilson responsible for contract violations.

301 Members Named To CIO Committee

Establishment of a Schenectady CIO Coordinating Committee has been approved by the Local 301 Executive Board. Board Member Alfred Pelrah and Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani were named by the Board to serve with President Andrew Peterson on the committee.

Plans for the Coordinating Committee were made recently at a meeting of presidents and other officers of Schenectady CIO unions. One of the first problems facing the group is to obtain justice for Perry Lenegar, a painter, who was fired by Ellis Hospital obviously for union activities.

School Days Again For Eight Members

Eight members of the Local 301 Executive Board have signed up for a seven-week extension course which will be conducted in Albany by the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations of Cornell University.

Union Gets Another Dose of Press Freedom To Suppress Labor News or Manufacture It

Statements of Local 301 leaders were suppressed last week by the Schenectady Gazette and the Union Star in connection with the union's protest to GE President Wilson over the company's refusal to arbitrate grievances. In addition, the Union-Star did some news twisting.

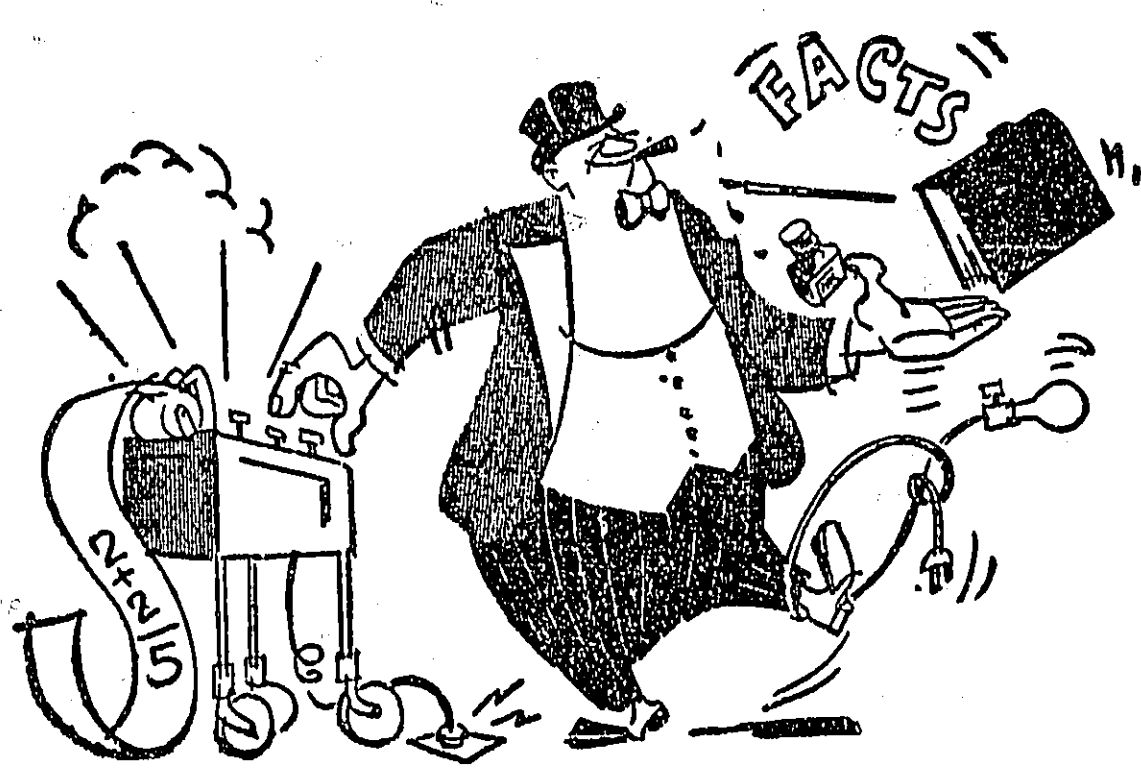
The union gave both papers a joint statement by President Andrew Peterson and Business Agent Jandreau on the arbitration matter and the text of the telegram sent to Wilson Jan. 13.

The Peterson-Jandreau statement explained the sending of the telegram and pointed out that after waiting over 48 hours the union had not "even had the courtesy of an acknowledgement."

Community Should Have Facts
"We are presenting this to the community," the statement declared, "because we feel the community should have the facts to enable it to place squarely the responsibility for unsatisfactory labor relations here.

"While Mr. Wilson tours the country attacking labor, the company flagrantly violates the contract provision which is the keystone to peaceful labor relations during the life of an agreement, namely the grievance procedure. We hear a great deal in Congress about legislation to hold labor 'responsible!' The fact is that labor acts in a highly responsible manner. We have followed through all the slow grievance steps on one grievance after another, despite the company's attitude. It is GE's irresponsible

GE Prepares for UE Bargaining



The group includes Dewey Brashear, James Cognetta, George Judway, Willard Kuschel, Mary M. McCartin, William Mastriani, Helen Quirini and Michael Tedisco.

District Elects Rome Man

Tom Serra, of the General Cable Local 301 in Rome, was elected secretary-treasurer of UE District 3 at the meeting in Rochester last Saturday. Brother Serra succeeded Charles Cooper of Tonawanda, who died last month. As secretary-treasurer Brother Serra goes on the General Executive Board of the UE as one of the two District 3 members. The other is Leo Jandreau, 301 Business agent and president of District 3.

Board Asks \$500 Gift For Mario Russo Fund

The Feb. 18 membership meeting will be asked by the Executive Board to vote \$500 for the Mario Russo Memorial Fund.

Brother Russo, a UE member, died of bullet wounds received when he was picketing in the recent Phelps-Dodge strike at Newark, N. J. The money will be used for the support of the widow and four children of the murdered UE picket.

Other donations which will be recommended to the membership meeting are as follows:

\$100 to the YWCA Round-the-World Reconstruction Fund.

\$150 to the Philadelphia-Camden Newspaper Guild strike against the Philadelphia Record and Camden (N.J.) Courier-Post, in addition to the \$50 sent by the Executive Board.

Workers in Bldg. 273 Ask Full Week's Work

Complaints about unequal distribution of work in the Turbine Department were taken to Bldg. 41 recently by William Kelly, assistant to the business agent.

Long service men in Bldg. 273 are still rotating and getting less than a full week's work, while Bldg. 60 is jammed with work. Workers with comparatively short employment records are being given overtime work in Bldg. 60 and night shifts have been set up.

Management is to look into the complaints concerning Bldg. 273. The union previously reported a similar situation in Bldg. 49, which also is in the Turbine Department.

Transport Workers Win 10 Cent Wage Increase

Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, has won a pay raise of 10 cents an hour, a \$16 a month increase in pension benefits, and other improvements in a new contract signed with the Schenectady Railway Co. The raises are retroactive to Jan. 1.

The new pension plan provides the difference between social security payments and \$91 a month for employees who have 25 years of service at the age of 65. Before, the company paid the difference between social security and \$75 a month.

An eight-hour day for extra men, with a minimum salary of \$41.25 a week, was included in the contract. Extra men had received a \$37.50 minimum.

Local 301 Assists Philadelphia Fund

The Executive Board of Local 301 has voted \$250 toward the legal defense of UE members indicted for "inciting to riot" and other trumped up charges as the result of last winter's GE strike at Philadelphia.

Although some of the union members were acquitted by jury trial, other cases are not yet disposed of.

A membership meeting of Local 301 recently authorized contributing to the defense fund and gave the Board the power to set the amount.

On Memorial Committee

Marshall White, 301 treasurer, has been named by the Executive Board to represent the local on Mayor Ten Eyck's steering committee for the World War II Memorial. White will replace Leo Jandreau, business agent, who withdrew because of the pressure of other work.

Latest Additions to List of Shop Committeemen



Seven men and a girl took their oaths of office as shop committeemen at the 301 membership and committeemen's meeting Jan. 7. Standing behind Lorna Engat, Bldg. 24, are, left to right, Edward Rindfleisch, Bldg. 46; W. L. Orick, Bldg. 60; William Stewart, Bldg. 105; Clarence S. Shayne, Bldg. 84; Earl L. Austin, Bldg. 10; Lauren Wilkens, Bldg. 16, and F. A. Collins, Bldg. 49.

Lots of Hearst Space For President of GE

Hearst newspapers throughout the country carried a picture of Charles E. Wilson and an article by Wilson on "My Faith", in last Sunday's The American Weekly. An entire page of this magazine section was devoted to the GE president.

Wilson talks about the "mighty atom of brotherly love" in his article. He also says the American people are "spiritually destitute in the midst of our material prosperity."

The section of the American people employed by GE hasn't been troubled by this "material prosperity" which Wilson mentions. GE workers have been forced to cut down on the amount of meat and milk and butter they buy for their families. It would be very encouraging if Wilson would experiment with "the mighty atom of brotherly love" when the UE-GE contract negotiations open.

Board Gives \$25 To Church Group

A donation of \$25 was voted by the Executive Board of Local 301 Jan. 8 to the Federal Council of Churches in Christ for its labor work.

This church organization has aided

Women Dislike 10 P. M. Limit On Work Hours

The women's vote at the Schenectady plant stood 299 in favor of a midnight limit on women's work to 30 in favor of a 10 p.m. limit, when the first batch of questionnaires was counted.

Local 301 asked committeemen, with a large number of women in their shops, to distribute the questionnaires to canvass the opinion of women workers on the midnight versus 10 p.m. issue. Complete returns were not in when this week's issue of EU News went to press.

Unless the state Legislature votes before Apr. 1 to extend the wartime legislation permitting women to work till midnight, a 10 p.m. curfew for women workers will automatically go in effect again throughout the state. The result at GE would probably be a drop from eight to seven hour shifts for women.

CIO representatives in working for wage and hour legislation and other labor bills and has joined in fighting anti-labor measures.