

## GENERAL ELECTRIC



ARE YOU A LOYAL AMERICAN OR ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME FOR A WAGE INCREASE?

## UE ON THE JOB!

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. 273: H. Hovey as a Floor Assembler is requesting an upgrade from Class "C" to Class "B".

Bldg. 68: E. Malinowski employed as a Lathe Hand under Foreman Druzia is requesting that he be reassigned back to his former operation, claiming he accepted his present assignment on a temporary basis.

Bldg. 107: The group working for Foreman Pearson is protesting that common laborers are being used on building trade operations.

Bldg. 29: A. De Braccio employed on a slitting machine is asking for a retine study in order to obtain a proper price.

Bldg. 11: The group working under Foreman Maxon are complaining about a safety hazard in operating portable test equipment.

Bldg. 40: P. Gaczkowski employed as a Press Operator is complaining that the prices established on his job were not arrived at by the proper timing rate. He requests the proper job rate be established.

Bldg. 10C: Dorothy Merriman employed as a Test Operator is requesting that her job be reclassified to a higher rate.

Bldg. 28: The group working under Foreman Jeffes are complaining about an inadequate price on stator assembly. They are requesting a new time study.

Bldg. 273: The group working under Foreman Jacob are requesting a clarification of their classification with regards to the machines on which they are employed.

Bldg. 273: Francis Funaro employed as a Floor Assembler is requesting to be paid the full job rate based on his experience on the job.

Bldg. 29: The group working for Foreman Krawiecki are complaining because the foreman has been operating a slitter when the regular operator was available.

Bldg. 76: The group working under Foreman Rosca are requesting a reduction in forces because of lost time.

CART: Gerald Maney and Carl Wilko are requesting an increase to the job rate, claiming that they are doing the job in a satisfactory manner.

Bldg. 269: The group working under Foreman Wyatt are protesting the practice of engineers working on test equipment doing production work.

Bldg. 273: The group working under Foreman Sugalski are protesting the use of apprentices as helpers while regular helpers are sent home for lack of work.

Bldg. 269: Edna Wojnus employed on a spot weld machine is asking for the proper incentive job rate.

Bldg. 22: The group employed under Foreman Garry are complaining because of the attitude of a leader who is assuming foreman's responsibilities.

Bldg. 270: The group working under Foreman Eckert are asking

## International Oil Worker (CIO)—December 7, 1953 (Reprint)

### Anti-Red Hysteria Is A Camouflage: Butler Bill Will Destroy Free and Bonafide Unions

"Communism — Communism — Communism —"

"The word is being repeated over and over again by the practitioners of the big lie technique, repeated until it hurts the ears of nearly all Americans. Anybody and everybody, everyone is being accused of being a Communist or an ex-Communist or "a communist sympathizer" or a member of a "Communist front" organization. The suggestion is made that Red Spies are all around us and amongst us, under the bed and in the broom closet . . . suggestion which insults the American people . . .

"The hysteria is being coldly, carefully, deliberately cultivated by a group of men in powerful positions. They are creating this hysteria as a smokescreen behind which they hope to remold America in a pattern completely different from that we have known in the past . . .

"The big lie boys are not out to destroy communism. They are out to destroy democracy. To destroy

democracy they must destroy free trade unions.

"An example of their real intentions, behind this phony facade of "anti-communism" is found in Senate Bill 1606, known as the Bugler Bill, which is now pending before Congress.

"Here's how the Butler Bill would destroy bonafide trade unions under the pretext of fighting communism . . .

"The Butler Bill, introduced by Senator John M. Butler (R., Md.), provides simply that a labor union shall be stripped of its bargaining rights at any time anyone charges that union with being to the slightest degree influenced by any individual who has to the slightest degree supported any so-called communist group . . .

"Under that definition, (Butler Bill definition of communist-dominated union) the union would be "Communist" in its support of higher wages, for the Communist Party also claims to believe in higher wages.

"In fact, the definition is so loose that almost any person in the nation could be found guilty.

"Specifically, the United States Chamber of Commerce has listed CIO as pro-communist . . . If the U. S. Chamber of Commerce now defines all of CIO as communist, there is little doubt that any "subversive activities control board" appointed by the present administration in Washington would do so. Is there any doubt who is running the show in Washington now?

"Is there any likelihood that a bill so extreme as the Butler Bill will be passed by Congress? There are indications that a definite effort will be made to pass the bill. . . . It seems almost unbelievable that Congress in their right mind would vote for the Butler Bill. . . . But then some mighty unbelievable things are happening in Washington these days."

CART: Julius Pirro employed as a Machinist under Foreman Setzer is asking for a reclassification based on the work that he is doing.

Bldg. 273: Grant Laraway classified as a Marker claims that he is performing the duties of a Checker Class "A" and, therefore, requests an increase in rate.

Bldg. 273: W. Brownell employed as a Floor Assembler Class "B" is requesting an increase in line with the work that he is obliged to do.

Bldg. 273: Robert Hutton employed as a Drill Press Operator under Foreman Ross is requesting average earnings for extra work on set-up.

CART: Kenneth Reynolds employed as a Jig Bore Operator is complaining about the rate paid him which is low in line with the work that he does.

Bldg. 109: Carrie Postilia employed under Foreman Cichy is complaining because she was removed from her job contrary to the seniority agreement.

Bldg. 273: The group working for Foreman Penfold as Floor Assemblers are protesting the upgrading of shorter service men in preference to longer service employees.

Bldg. 269: Joseph Grubar working under Foreman Koche is complaining about the rate paid him on a job that was assigned by the foreman. He requests average earnings.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 13 — No. 2

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 22, 1954

## Membership Draws Up Wage, Contract Demands



"ON MY MOST SACRED WORD OF HONOR . . . I will bear true and faithful allegiance to the UE and its membership and will defend it against all who seek to do it harm." With that solemn pledge, leaders of UE Local 301 (above) were inducted into office for the coming year.

## Officers Installed; Pledge Loyalty to UE

The officers that will lead UE Local 301 for the coming year were installed with appropriate ceremonies Monday night at the first Membership meeting of 1954. The election of officers was held in accordance with the Local 301 Constitution December 3 and 4. The polls were open 30 consecutive hours. The following were elected: James J. Cognetta, president; Joseph Alois, vice-president; Miles G. Moon, recording secretary; R.

Rudolph Rissland, asst. recording secretary; Joseph Whitbeck, treasurer; William Mastriani, chief steward; Leo Jandrea, business agent; William Garrison, trustee; Vincent Palazoke, trustee; Joseph Saccocio, sergeant-at-arms; Mario Bagneto, guide.

The report of the election committee, which was approved by the membership, showed the following had been elected to the Local 301 Executive Board:

Neil Dube, William Templeton, Vincent Di Lorenzo, Frank J. D'Amico, James De Masco; William Christman, Sidney Friedlander, Douglas Gray, Joseph Drodowski, Henry Kaminiski, also Edward La Bombard, Paul Landolfo, Sunday Dupi, Elroy J. Marine, Andrew J. Miteh, Howard McLean, Vincent Palazoke, Paul Rose, Charles Scott, Harry M. Williams, also

Membership proposals for union demands to be submitted to G in national negotiations were a main order of business at the January membership meeting of Local 301. The proposals from the floor on desired contract and wage improvements will be submitted by the delegates of UE Local 301 to the GE Conference Board of UE which will meet within the next few weeks in New York.

The local's contract proposals brought forward by the membership included:

A additional paid holiday, making eight in all. It was pointed out that in this area Lincoln's Birthday is observed, but not paid and the suggestion was made that this be the additional holiday. The membership voted to demand the removal of all strings on holidays, such as holidays on Saturday or Sunday and the day before and day after work requirement.

Vacation improvements sought include a sliding scale improvement in vacations for those with between five and 15 years service, and an extra week after 20 years' service, making vacations four weeks after 20 years.

### Pension Improvements

Many suggestions were made for pension improvements. Among them were raising the minimum pension, now \$125 a month, and lowering the optional retirement

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### Meeting Chooses Delegates To Conference Board

UE Local 301's delegates to the GE Conference Board, which will meet in New York early next month to draw up demands for national negotiations with the company, were elected at Monday night's membership meeting. They are Local 301 Pres. James Cognetta, Fred Paicelli, Second Shift Board Member, and Bus. Agent Leo Jandrea.

## McCarthy Fingers Four More Lynn GE Workers

BOSTON—Sen. Joseph McCarthy, chief hatchman for GE's new political blacklist policy, has fingered four more GE employees for firing at the Lynn plant near here. Bargaining agent at the Lynn GE plant is the IUE-CIO. Five Lynn GE workers had previously been suspended after they had re-

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS



## Vacation Unemployment Benefits Won After Appeal By Union

The Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board, after considering the appeal taken from a decision of a referee in favor of workers losing time from work because of vacation shut-downs last summer, decided that workers who were not entitled to vacation pay during the unemployment benefits.

The lawyer for the Division of Employment argued that the workers should not get paid for loss of pay during the vacation shut-down because the union had "consented" to the closing of some parts of the plant for vacation purposes. Our union lawyer, on the other hand, pointed out that the union had never consented to the shutting of the buildings and that in fact the union had always protested against this high-handed action of local management and had filed individual grievances.

Referring to the State lawyer's argument to the Appeals Board that the union had consented to GE's action, the Board said:

"We are unable to find any language in the agreement,

### Elect Trial Committee

A Trial Committee consisting of B. Gouthey, Bldg. 63; D. Palmer, Bldg. 40; P. Donato, Bldg. 66; S. De Petro, Bldg. 49; L. De Angeles, Bldg. 52; A. Esposito, Bldg. 53; R. Christensen, Bldg. 273; John Saccocio, Bldg. 66 and L. Stanton, Bldg. 40, Second Shift, was elected by the Membership Monday night. A trial committee is elected by the membership each time charges are preferred against any member of the local.

## Membership Meeting Proposes Wage, Contract Demands

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age. Proposals were also made that a full pension be granted after 25 years' service, regardless of age and that other changes be made to insure an adequate pension for retired GE employees.

The membership voted for improved health, hospitalization and insurance benefits, to be paid for by the company. In this connection it was suggested that the Union demand 10 days sick leave with pay for production workers. This has never been allowed by the company to its production and maintenance employees, although it is the rule with office workers.

### To Protect Jobs

There was much interest in proposals to protect the level of em-

which, even by implication, can support such argument. The provision in the contract that "those Works shutting down annually for vacation purposes shall consider the vacation season to run concurrently with the

shut down period" does not appear to have any application to the situation before us." Claims for benefits will now be paid to those workers who had filed for such benefits.

## Company Announces Schedule For Vacation Shutdowns

The company has notified the Union of scheduled dates for departmental shutdowns for vacations in 1954. The Local has urged Board Members to get in touch with the stewards in the affected departments and have them poll the members. If there is dissatisfaction with the dates scheduled a case can be initiated for the entire department or each shop steward can file a grievance. The company has indicated that the following schedule of dates is tentative and subject to change:

Welded Products, weeks of July 19 and July 26.  
Insulated Products (#29 and #64) weeks of July 19 and July 26.  
Tube (#269) weeks of July 12 and July 19.  
Foundries, weeks of July 19 and July 26.  
Chemical, weeks of July 19 and July 26.  
Sm. and Med. Motor, weeks of July 19 and July 26.  
Wire (#109) weeks of August 2 and August 9.  
Control, weeks of July 26 and August 2.  
Industrial Heating, weeks of July 26 and August 2.

employment, in view of the threatening layoff situation throughout the company. Proposed demands dealing with this point included:

Elimination of geographical differentials, which encourage the removal of work to low-pay areas.

A shorter work week, with no reduction in earnings.

Contract safeguards protecting against arbitrary removal of work where the move leaves unemployment behind.

### Women's Rates

Other proposed demands included the elimination of discriminatory rates on jobs performed by women. While progress has been made in this direction, much remains to be done.

Special increases for skilled and day workers.

Improvements in incentive safeguards.

Better protection of earnings in making transfers.

Improvement in grievance procedure to give more authority to plant management to settle grievances.

Liberalization of call in pay and report time.

Improvement of continuity of service policy. GE workers should be entitled to all their service—not be deprived of it upon so many excuses.

Continuous process operators to be given the same overtime benefits as other production workers. More adequate information on

## Profits, Taxes And Layoffs

Although 1953 saw short time and layoffs slashing the earnings of people who work for a living, for the big corporations 1953 was a bonanza year, corporations reports indicate.

In 1953 corporation net profits after taxes were more than \$20 billion. For dividends, 1953 is expected to be the highest year in history, as corporations held off paying dividends in 1952 to permit their stockholders to obtain the benefit of lower tax rates in 1953.

As every sign points to continued falling employment for working people in 1954, the repeal of the excess profits tax insures even higher profits for the corporations, amounting in many cases 30 percent and more. This tax relief for the corporations further endangers jobs, by making it possible for the companies to maintain or surpass previous profit records with lower production and fewer employees.

### Rank and File Members For Annual 301 Audit

Under the UE Local 301 Constitution, in addition to the quarterly audits conducted by the Local trustees, an annual audit is conducted by a special group consisting of the trustees, a certified public accountant and three rank and file members who may not be either officers or stewards of the local. Monday night's membership meeting elected John Saccocio of Bldg. 66, Kenneth Broady of Bldg. 52 and William Nightengale of Bldg. 46, Second Shift, as the rank and file auditing committee.

## McCarthy Fingers Four More GE Workers at Lynn Moves In Like Vulture To Help Company Put Over Its Layoff Program

(Continued from page 1)

fused to co-operate with McCarthy at hearings held in Boston in November. The company has announced that it has given the record of McCarthy's most recent hearings in Boston to company lawyers to study to see whether or not to apply its new blacklist policy to the four GE production workers who refused to act as stoopigeons for McCarthy at public televised hearings in Boston January 14. At the same hearing one of the five Lynn GE workers who had previously been suspended by the company rose from the audience and accused the Senator of working with the General Electric Co. to get rid of workers willing to fight for their jobs and rights as union members. McCarthy had five U. S. marshals throw him out of the hearing room to silence him.

## Supreme Court Disagrees With GE

According to the General Electric Co. and Sen. McCarthy, partners in GE's new political blacklist policy, any person who uses the protection the Bill of Rights gives him is guilty of wrongdoing.

At least two members of the U. S. Supreme Court disagree sharply with the ideas of the Senator and the corporation. During the recent Supreme Court review of the conviction of UE Sec.-Treas. Julius Emspak, a member of UE Local 301, on a conviction of contempt of Congress, members of the Supreme Court sharply challenged the Dept. of Justice's view of the Fifth Amendment. Emspak had used the First and Fifth Amendments in refusing to answer questions. The Dept. of Justice held that this showed he must be guilty of something.

Justice Frankfurter snapped up the government lawyer.

"That is the kind of interpretation that is too common today, among people who should know better and too many people who do know better," he said. "You go back to the Justice Dept. and tell them that the Fifth Amendment is a protection to the innocent."

Justice Jackson, who was chief prosecutor of the Nazi war criminals in Europe, chimed in with Justice Frankfurter.

"According to you," he told the government lawyer, "a person who invokes the Fifth Amendment is either a criminal or a liar, and you know that is not so."

### Providence Journal Hits GE Policy

The influential Providence "Sunday Journal", biggest newspaper in Rhode Island, in a recent editorial took a slam at GE's new political blacklist policy. Speaking of the "McCarthy Court" which has been set up "outside the courts established by the Constitution", the paper warned:

"There is a warning for the American people in Aesop's fables, who called in King Stork to free them from the rule of King Log and were promptly gobbled up by their cynical saviour."

### McCarthy Helps GE on Layoffs

It is noticeable that in the operation of GE's blacklist plan it is being first applied where there are serious problems of unemployment. In Lynn some 2,000 have been laid off since August. In Lynn, a plant where UECIO is bargaining agent, five production workers are suspended and four more threatened. In GE's Erie plant, where two UE members are under suspension, including John Nelson, president of UE Local 506, there is also an unemployment problem caused by the company's moving its refrigerator work to a new low-pay plant in the South.

While layoffs have not hit Schenectady as hard as Lynn and Erie, there have been layoffs here and the transfers and bumping going on in the plant, together with the running out of overtime, indicates that unemployment will grow.

### Moves Like Vulture

McCarthy has already said that he is coming back here to finger some union people for GE. It appears that wherever GE plans layoffs and wants to have a free hand in downgrading on transfers and wants to throw union seniority protections out the window, McCarthy moves in like a vulture feeding on the people's hardships to do a job of union busting for the company.

In layoff times, when the people need their union and its protections the most, for a fight to save jobs and a fight to help those laid-off, McCarthy and GE operate as a team to divide the people and make it easy for the company to have its way.



## Officers Urge Army Keep Big Generator Job in U.S.

UE Local 301 Pres. James Cognetta and Bus. Agent Leo Jandreau have written to the Secretary of the Army urging that a contract for two large power generators for McNary Dam, which was awarded to the low bidder, a British firm, be rescinded and awarded to the General Electric Co., the lowest domestic bidder.

In their letter of January 13 Cognetta and Jandreau wrote, "This contract would provide a million man hours of work for GE workers which we sorely need in face of the ever-growing unemployment in our area and the layoffs taking place daily in our plant. Moreover, our government would benefit tremendously through keeping a large group of American taxpayers provided with full employment for at least one year. It has been estimated that the equipment and installation represents approximately \$2,000,000 in wages to American working men.

"We are tooled here in Schenectady and have experienced personnel that can assure the production of the McNary Dam generators and equipment to be delivered on schedule and with the quality that will give dependable service. General Electric demonstrated its ability to build and install the first generator at McNary Dam and had it in operation ahead of schedule."

"We urge you to use every effort to have the contract awarded to General Electric in order that American GE workers will have the benefits of the employment that the job affords."

### Kearney Replies to Officers' Letter

Rep. B. W. Kearney has replied to the letter of the Local 301 officers, saying that he has already protested the awarding of contracts for electrical generators to a British firm, "as not being in the best interests of American industry and American working men."