

'301' Gives Hughes-Brees Repeal Drive Big Push

The campaign of labor throughout the state to repeal the Hughes-Brees amendments to the N. Y. state unemployment insurance law continued to be spark-plugged last week by members of UE Local 301.

With the bill of State Sen. William Bianchi, which would repeal Hughes-Brees and improve the law, scheduled for possible action by the state legislature next week, '301' members were canvassing all Republican committeemen in 14 wards and three townships of Schenectady County.

'301' executive board members personally assumed responsibility for contacting Republican committeemen in their communities.

A delegation from '301' was scheduled to meet in Albany on Tuesday, February 19, with Republican legislative leaders.

Already, early in the week, over 50 Republican committeemen had signed petitions, which termed the Hughes-Brees amendments "an injustice to the working men and women of this state," which makes it more difficult to qualify, and reduces benefits 50 percent.

Brees a KKKer

What kind of background a man has who would get a bill passed to water down benefits for unemployed workers was revealed last week when Orlo Brees (of Hughes-Brees) admitted in Binghamton that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan for many years.

Stewards Signing Up '273' Sections 100%

The third shift is setting the pace in Bldg. 273 in making their Union strong. Five sections hit the 100 percent mark in membership last week.

The UE '301' stewards doing the job were J. Hurd, grinding; H. Bukoff, H Bay erection assembly; J. Faircloth, J Bay erection assembly; B. Quackenbush, winding section; and Larry Gebel, big lathe section.

Committee To Study GE Works Changes

A Representation Committee was established by the UE '301' executive board last Monday to study how changes in management structure in the GE Works might affect handling of grievances—and to make recommendations for '301' organizational changes.

Those appointed to the committee were: William Mastrianni, 73A; Frank D'Amico, 40; James DeMasseo, 49; William Stewart, 273; and Fred Pacelli, 46.

Bldg. 69 Spurs Defense Fund

Showing the way to other buildings on how to build UE Local 301's Defense Fund, workers in Bldg. 69 on February 7 staged a well attended lunch hour meeting. '301' Chief Shop Steward William Mastrianni told the meeting that "without funds you can't function—much less fight." He warned of battles ahead, with wage talks set for March 5 and a contract renewal in September, for which the Union must have funds to conduct a fight. Stewards are now following up in their groups to collect \$5 from each member.



NEIGHBORS. The workers above work at the Mica Insulator plant right next door to the GE Works—where they've been saddled with a company union for 10 years. They've had enough and are joining UE. A good union policy for UE '301' members is the Good Neighbor Policy—Organize Your Neighbor Next Door. '301' officers have urged members to talk to friends, relatives or neighbors who work at Mica and tell them of the benefits of UE membership. Contact UE Field Organizers Joseph Infante or Ann Adour at the '301' Hall for information. The picture above was taken at a Mica meeting last week.

Hosiery Union Takes a Pay Cut To Meet South's Non-Union Rate

Arbitrators Vote Reductions, as Much as 25% To Keep the Northern Mills From Closing

Wages of 20,000 A. F. L. hosiery workers will be reduced as much as 25 per cent because competition in low-wage, non-union mills is threatening to put their employers out of business, it was announced today. The cut comes at a time when general wage trend is upward.

C. I. O. WOOL LOCALS VOTE 50% WORK RISE

Increase Made Permanent by 1,000 in New England to Meet South's Inroads

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Jan. 13 (UPI)—Some 1,000 woolen workers in New England have voted to accept a permanent 50 per cent increase in work loads to meet Southern competition. John G. ...

A Fighting Fund Wouldn't Have Helped

A Fighting Fund wouldn't have helped these textile workers beat their employers' attempts to worsen their conditions.

It wouldn't have helped because neither the AFL or CIO union is a fighting union.

But your union—the UE—is a fighting union.

It doesn't give in to the bosses. It does what a union is supposed to do—fight the bosses to improve conditions.

And... a fighting union needs a fighting fund.

Contribute your \$5 today to build YOUR UE Local 301 Defense Fund.

Action Taken On Piled Up Grievances In Bldg. 46

Building 46, which supervision has made a trouble spot on rate chiselling for many months, was getting top priority action from '301' last week to end GE abuses. Among grievances on which the Union was demanding a quick redress, were:

Despite two stoppages in January which brought promises of solution, Foremen Hess and Wood continue to chisel on lathe, milling and profile rates.

Between 30 and 40 time studies in six months have been taken on profiles, radio drill, sensitive drills, lathes, boreamatics and jig borers for the purpose of standardizing prices, but prices have been made "special," contrary to contract. A list of drawing numbers are being checked, to be worked out to the Union's satisfaction.

Workers say there is no excuse for supervision still calling TG 190 units in a state of "development" after two years. They claim it was developed in the tool room.

Higher rates are demanded for miscellaneous machine operators, where GE has proposed cuts to save \$80,000 in 1952. An end sought to foreman's attempt to make workers tell how many pieces produced in a day.

Management has agreed to make all C work B rate on drill presses, to cease playing first shift operators against second on time studies and to equalize overtime for operators by keeping an overtime book.

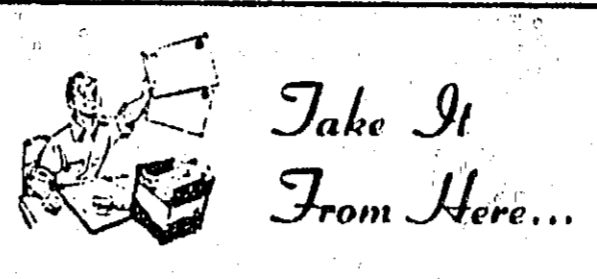
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Tonawanda, N. Y.—UE Locals in this area have won increases ranging from six to 22 cents for 5,000 workers in eight plants.

San Francisco—Following notice by the Marine, Cooks & Stewards that no more members would sign on ships unless a 40 hour week was put into effect, the WSB ended its months-long stall in approving this work-week and granted approval. The union threatened similar action on any other gains the WSB might stall in the future.

Syracuse, N. Y.—UE Local 323 has won increases of five cents an hour for hourly workers and six cents for day workers at Globe Forge as a partial settlement while negotiations continue.

Newell, W. Va.—Five plants of the Homer Laughlin China Co. resumed work when 500 AFL pottery workers returned to work after four days when the company rehired eight discharged employees.

Powal, Vt.—Workers at Warren Wire Works, members of an independent union, have voted for UE to represent them by a tally of 70 to 10.

Detroit—The 5,600 CIO rubber workers at the U. S. Rubber plant here have walked out three times in one week to protest speed-up.

Evansville, Ind.—UE Local 813 members at the big Servel refrigerator plant staged two 100 percent shutdowns to win six cents an hour increases retroactive to Dec. 24, another 3½ cents in June, with hundreds of workers getting six to 22 cents additional increases through a boost in the guaranteed rate on incentive.

Port Wayne, Ind.—UE Local 916 signed up 101 new members in one month at the Farnsworth plant.

Chicago — Suspension of two members of the grievance committee provoked a stoppage by 3,500 UE members in the International Harvester Works here.

UE Whirlwind Campaign Starts Thawing Freeze

The GE 3.58 percent increase has jumped 17,000 steps ahead because UE members this past week lit a fuse under GE and the wage freeze board which has been stalling approval. While GE strained to give birth to a 1.08 percent bribe to its workers to keep the lid from blowing off on the stall and, together with the IUE, was issuing daily press releases, but little else, UE members on many fronts were expressing the deep anger of electrical workers over the long delay—and acting to secure prompt payment of the full wage increase.

Among the developments were: UE '301' members unanimously expressed their rejection of any partial "deal" by GE at building meetings on Feb. 13.

National UE officers, Pres. Albert Fitzgerald, Sec'y-Treas. Julius Emspak and Director of Organization James J. Matles on the same day met with Nathan Feinsinger and Frederick Bullen, chairman and vice chairman of the Wage Stabilization Board.

They insisted that the GE increases required no waiting for any new productivity formula by the WSB, since it was not filed on that basis—but on the basis of the historical wage pattern of the electrical industry to other industries, and should be approved at once on the basis of inequity.

The WSB officials agreed to reconsider the case on this

The Answer '301' Gave GE

GE got its answer right in its own backyard to its attempt to "throw a bone" to its workers instead of doing something to get its industry members on the WSB to approve the full 3.58 percent increase.

Workers in every building of the GE Works were called to lunch-hour membership meetings by their UE '301' executive board members on Feb. 13 to discuss the 1.08 "bone" GE wants to throw out.

Without exception, every building was unanimous in expressing its opinion in no uncertain terms that it wanted to be no party to any peanut "deal" by GE that would help take it off the spot for its clear-cut responsibility to get its industry members on the WSB to approve the entire 3.58.

basis — which has moved the GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania ahead of 17,000 cases it was lodged behind.

A joint meeting of UE's GE, Westinghouse and International Harvester Conference Boards in New York City appointed a joint steering committee to fight for approval of all past increases and win further increases.

New wage demands will be filed with GE under the March 5 wage reopener to win sub-

stantial general increases, narrowing geographical differentials, improving women's and skilled workers rates.

Over 100 Conference Board delegates descended on Washington on Monday, Feb. 18.

From House Majority Leader John McCormack and Minority Leader Joseph Martin they secured letters to the WSB urging prompt action on the GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania cases. Sen. James Duff, of Pennsylvania, wrote a

Continued on page 4



SERVING NOTICE. Delegates representing over 100,000 UE members in the GE, Westinghouse and International Harvester chains are seen above at the joint meeting they held in New York City last weekend. They planned united action to get WSB approval of all wage increases now pending, to win further increases in approaching negotiations and to end the wage freeze. UE Local 301 delegates Fred Pacelli and James Cognetta are seen at second table from front.

GE Works Changes Hamper Grievance Settlements

GE might have improved its manufacturing operations during the past two years in the Schenectady Works — but hand-in-hand there has been a worsening of collective bargaining on grievances.

The result has been a gradual step-up of buck-passing on grievances—with GE professing its left hand doesn't know what the right is doing.

The problem results from decentralized authority, with various divisions assigned full control of all manufacturing operations relating to cost—with the exception of Union grievances.

Grievances still go to Bldg. 41, the management level, instead of being properly settled in the divisions. Bldg. 41 then tosses the grievances back to the division and the division tosses it back to Bldg. 41.

'301' officers pointed out last week that GE can't have its cake and eat it, too, and that the Union will take every measure necessary to end this practice. '301' will insist that complete authority on grievances go along with authority on manufacturing in any division that is given full control of operations.

The '301' executive board, at its last meeting, established a special committee to study the problem and make recommendations. The Union will also propose any contract modifications needed to cope with a situation that GE is trying to take advantage of.

Taylor Named Arbitrator of C. I. O. Disputes

Ex-Head of W. L. B. to Rule on Jurisdictional Rows; Will Get \$15,000 a Year

Appointment of Dr. George W. Taylor to decide all disputes which exist and may arise among C. I. O. unions was announced yesterday by Philip Murray, C. I. O. president. Dr. Taylor, fifty-one, is professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania. He was chairman of the National War Labor Board in World War II and has been chairman of the Wage Stabilization Board.

RAIDERS, INC. The CIO, which has spent millions of dollars splitting and disrupting workers in other unions, now finds it can't keep its own unions from raiding each other. Last week they appointed an Arbitrator at \$15,000 a year to try to keep its unions from tearing each other apart. The man CIO appointed, Dr. George Taylor, has been a big help to employers as head of the old War Labor Board and the Wage Stabilization Board. UE, before it left CIO, warned that CIO's raiding could only harm the workers of all unions—and called then, as it does now, for unity of all unions to fight the corporations—not each other.

Notice on Dues

As of March 1, based on UE constitutional changes, a full month's dues must be paid by all members who have worked at least five days in one month.

New Progression Chart Won By Bldg. 273 Welders

A Union subcommittee has worked out and reached agreement with GE on a satisfactory progression chart for welders in Bldg. 273.

The agreement, which guarantees all moves will be made by seniority, qualification and consent of the worker involved, provides:

Lagging and stator assembly welders can now go to the top rate of \$1.865 in the hot booth. Previously, lagger were stuck at \$1.81 and stator at \$1.75½.

Only hot booth welders will now go to pipe welding.

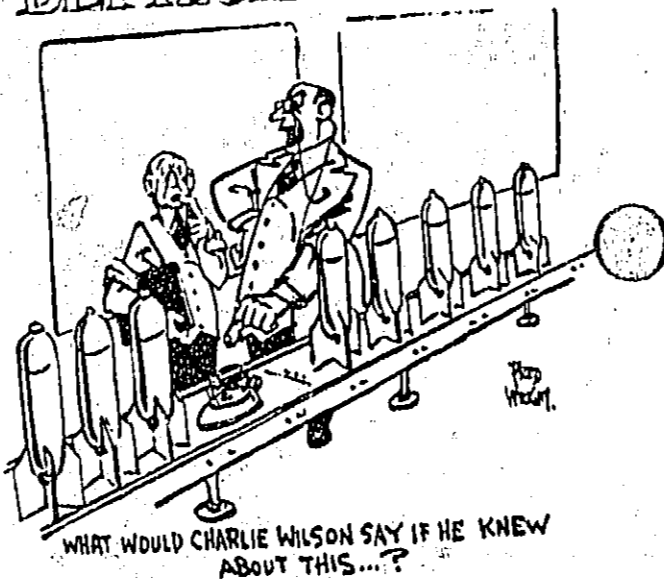
In the K15 booth, opportunity is provided for special welding classification, which pays \$1.865. Formerly, welders were only in K-15 for temporary periods and couldn't get highest rate permanently because GE used the gimmick of "special" rating. When work would catch up, back the men would go to the old rate.

On this "special" rate the lower pipe weld didn't get a chance at the special rate because welders would be switched from the hot booth. The hot booth welders objected because they often caught colds.

The subcommittee, which worked out the problem with GE and the groups of welders concerned, consisted of:

Delmar L. Gebert, M. E. Freeman, Arthur Owens, John Lynch, Robert Barnes, Douglas DeFarge and '301' Asst. Business Agent William Templeton.

BLITZUM BOMBS INC



Bldg. 46 Assemblers Seek Better Rates

Another grievance in Bldg. 46, which has been a sore-spot for many months because of GE chiseling and cutting on rates, has been taken up at the management level.

Twenty-three B assemblers, with 10 years or more service, haven't been classified to A while new men are hired at the gate and are making C after breaking-in period.

The assemblers demand that some be upgraded to A and that an end be brought to the practice of B men who break in new workers being transferred to Bldg. 60, while new men stay in Bldg. 46.

The workers maintain this has resulted in a lack of leaders and instructors for breaking in assemblers and C and B men, causing confusion and lack of knowledge on very important government work.

UE Around the Clock

They're building the Union around the clock in the big lathe section in Bldg. 273. UE membership on all three shifts has been at the 100 percent mark for several months now.

requests an investigation of overtime, since it's felt it's possible to maintain a better equalization of overtime.

Bldg. 273: Leslie C. Goodwill protests cut in standard price for Drawing 107C777, claiming new cutters are inefficient and estimate of decrease in cutting time is incorrect. A proper adjustment is demanded.

F. Karolak requests a one step increase. He says his job of welding for lagger, exciter assemblers and electricians is not properly rated.

A group of tool grinders, now classified as B, B intermediate and A, demand that B intermediate be eliminated, leaving A and B with two step differential.

Roland Hewbury and Joseph De Sarbo were prevented from punching their time cards on Feb. 9 by Foreman T. McNutt. They demand three hours report-in time as provided in Article V-8-d of the UE contract.

Hughes-Brees Repeal Drive Gains Ground

The constant and unceasing campaign of labor in New York State to win repeal of the Hughes-Brees amendments to the unemployment insurance law was producing results last week, with the Republican majority in the state legislature for the first time making commitments for some changes.

UE locals in Rome, Buffalo, Elmira, Tonawanda, Jamestown and New York City have been sparking the campaign.

In the forefront has been UE Local 301. Canvassing all Republican committeemen in the County of Schenectady, '301' has not only secured the signatures of over 60 committeemen on petitions calling for Hughes-Brees repeal, but also obtained the support of the president of the Board of Supervisors and five other supervisors.

On Tuesday afternoon of this week, at presstime, Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent; James Cognetta, president; Dewey Brashear, legislative chairman; together with Clifford T. McAvoy, UE District 3 and 4 legislative representative, were meeting with top Republican leaders in Albany to discuss needed changes in the law.

Also invited to the meeting, which was arranged by UE, were the Albany representatives of CIO and AFL.

Major stress has been placed on the bill introduced by State Sen. William Bianchi, which would repeal Hughes-Brees outright and add improvements to the old law. Regardless of the fate of the Bianchi bill, general feeling in labor circles was that this bill has provided the impetus for labor's repeal campaign.

Labor supports the Bianchi proposals for \$40 a week benefits and an additional \$3 for each dependent, 52 weeks maximum duration, no waiting periods, no penalties for strikers eliminating the "merit" rating under which employers get huge kick-backs, only \$300 a year earning requirement in a year, benefits based on the highest quarter of earnings, N. Y. State to keep employment and earning records—not the applicant and checks to be paid as soon as a worker is eligible.



FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. When the newly elected '301' executive board held its first meeting on Monday, Feb. 11, its first order of business was building the Union's Fighting Fund. Board members are seen above showering their \$5 at Helen Quirini, '301' treasurer. Object of the drive is \$5 from each member to build up UE Local 301's Defense Fund for coming battles in March and September for wage and contract improvements.

Erie GE Local 506 Spurs Fight To End Wage Freeze

The 10,000 member sister local of UE Local 301 at the GE plant in Erie, Pa. is setting an example for the rest of the labor movement throughout the country on how to mobilize maximum labor support, regardless of affiliation, to end the wage freeze.

On the one single issue of ending the wage freeze, UE Local 506 has enlisted the support of 14 AFL, CIO and independent unions in Erie and formed the United Labor Committee to End the Wage Freeze.

In a half-page advertisement on Feb. 13 in the Erie Times, John Nelson, UE Local 506 president; Joe Luciano, CIO Rubber Local 61 president and Elmer Smith, CIO Steel Local 1573 president, called for an end to the freeze and appealed for community support.

Pointing out that the wage freeze board is stalling 17,000 cases, involving \$5 million in wage increases, while corporation profits go on mounting, the ad called for:

An end to the wage freeze and the Wage Stabilization Board. Roll-back of prices. Lifting of the tax burden on workers. Resignation of all labor members of the WSB. Full support to the CIO Steelworkers in their struggle against the steel monopoly. Full aid to all unions engaged in wage and bargaining fights.

The ad pointed out that the wage freeze has not only nullified signed agreements reached through collective bargaining, but "it has served to stifle the operation of collective bargaining itself." Because the WSB stands behind them, the ad said, "employers are treating with contempt the just demands of their employees."

Alertness and prompt action by Stewards F. Borst and F. Gauvreau in Bldg. 15 have halted four recent attempts to cut prices by more than \$10.

Latest attempt squelched was a revised PW table on shear and grind that would have cut prices by as much as \$20 a thousand. In rejecting the proposed table, Gauvreau pointed out that all the prices in this group were standard and could not be cut.

Bldgs. Push Fund

Five buildings combined at a lunch-time meeting on Thursday, Feb. 14 to get the UE Local 301 Defense Fund drive launched with a bang.

Nearly 300 workers in Bldgs. 77, 73A, 73, 67 and 71 came to hear '301' Chief Shop Steward William Mastrianni tell of the need for such a fund as a war chest for coming wage battles with GE and to end the wage freeze. Answers were supplied to questions they had about the use of the fund.

Several UE members paid their \$5 in full on the spot, with stewards reporting collections taking a big spurt in the days following the meeting.

Mastrianni has urged executive board members to call similar meetings in their divisions to put the drive over the top.

Improvements Sought in Silicosis Benefits

UE has succeeded in getting a bill introduced in the N. Y. State legislature to provide greater compensation benefits for victims of silicosis, a serious problem in both the Schenectady and Elmira GE plants.

Introduced by State Sen. B. Wachtel, the bill would provide benefits for those partially disabled. The present bill only pays for total disability. It would also provide payment for necessary time spent in court.

Brees Wins Senate Seat by Minority

Orlo Brees (of Hughes-Brees), who recently admitted he'd been a Ku Klux Klan member for years, won out in his race for state senate last week, but with a minority of the votes. An independent Republican and a Democrat had a combined vote of 15,200 to Brees' 13,892. He trailed far behind in Binghamton.

UE ON THE JOB

Bldg. 16: A group in shipping requests that breaking-in-rates for new packers be adjusted to the same as paid in Bldg. 273. When turbine was in Bldg. 60, both large motor and generator had same rate. Since discontinued, the group now pays part of the sharing rate for breaking in new packers.

Bldg. 17: Edmund Calleo, punch press, demands additional material handler for front crane. Since one was transferred out there has only been one left, violating a standard practice of years.

Bldg. 28: Anne Herrington, A & O, protests her transfer out of Bldg. 28 since there is no lack of work. Demands placement on job in 28 for which she is qualified.

Bldg. 46: A price for all repair jobs is demanded. Wilfred E.

Jump, Jr. performed a job on profiler and passed inspection. When foreman brought it back for repair he refused to pay a price and informed Steward J. Welch he wouldn't price any repair jobs on the floor.

Bldg. 68: Foreman F. Nowicki informed Steward M. Porter he had no jurisdiction in raising complaint of Elizabeth Relyea, porcelain, that she was doing work not normally within production checker's work, and was forced to accept responsibilities not reflected in job rate of \$1.29. A reclassification and upgrading more in line with her duties is requested.

Bldg. 69: Rose Catanzaro, demands 2.20 per C. price be the same for two identical jobs, one of which now pays \$1.95 per C. and the other \$2.20 per C.

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. 73A: A group in industrial control requests management live up to its agreements that compensating time on old standard cubicles remain 31 percent and the new cubicle shall be 15 percent compensating time.

Bldg. 77: A group in chemical

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