

# The Kids Take Over!

The kids from New York City look over last Friday when Local 301 hall was turned into a reception center for close to 200 Fresh Air Fund children who will stay in the Schenectady area for two weeks or more.



The kids listen to greetings, meet their temporary moms and dads, and line up for ice cream donated by UE Local 301 in pictures on this page.



Above, Mayor Archibald Wemple welcomes the kids while Friendly Town Committee Chairman Horace Van Voast, Jr., listens.



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 10 — No. 32

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Monday, August 18, 1952



Keosauqua, Ia.—The newly organized Barker Manufacturing Co. employees have voted 30 to 8 to affiliate with UE in an NLRB election held late last month.

Pittsburgh—CIO brewery workers voted 1,189 to 383 to accept a new contract providing a 12½c wage boost and fringe benefits. The pact ends a 103-day-long strike.

Rome, N. Y. — A first contract between UE and the GLF dairy cooperative was announced here by the UE District 3 office. The contract provides GLF workers with a 12c wage increase.

Buffalo — For the first time in recent years the independent International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, the CIO auto-workers and the AFL sat down together to discuss common problems of workers employed by the American Brass Co. in the U. S. and Canada.

Falconer, N. Y. — UE Local 309 has signed a new contract with the Steel Partitions Co. calling for an average take-home pay increase of 14c an hour for approximately 150 workers represented by the union.

Detroit — More than 5,000 AFL carpenters and teamsters employed by 125 firms in the Detroit Lumberman's Association won 10c hourly wage increases in a three year contract approved by the Wage Stabilization Board.

Wilmington, Del. — UE Local 138 members won their six-week strike against the Zallea Bros. machine shop when management agreed to grant an 8c wage increase and many other contract benefits.

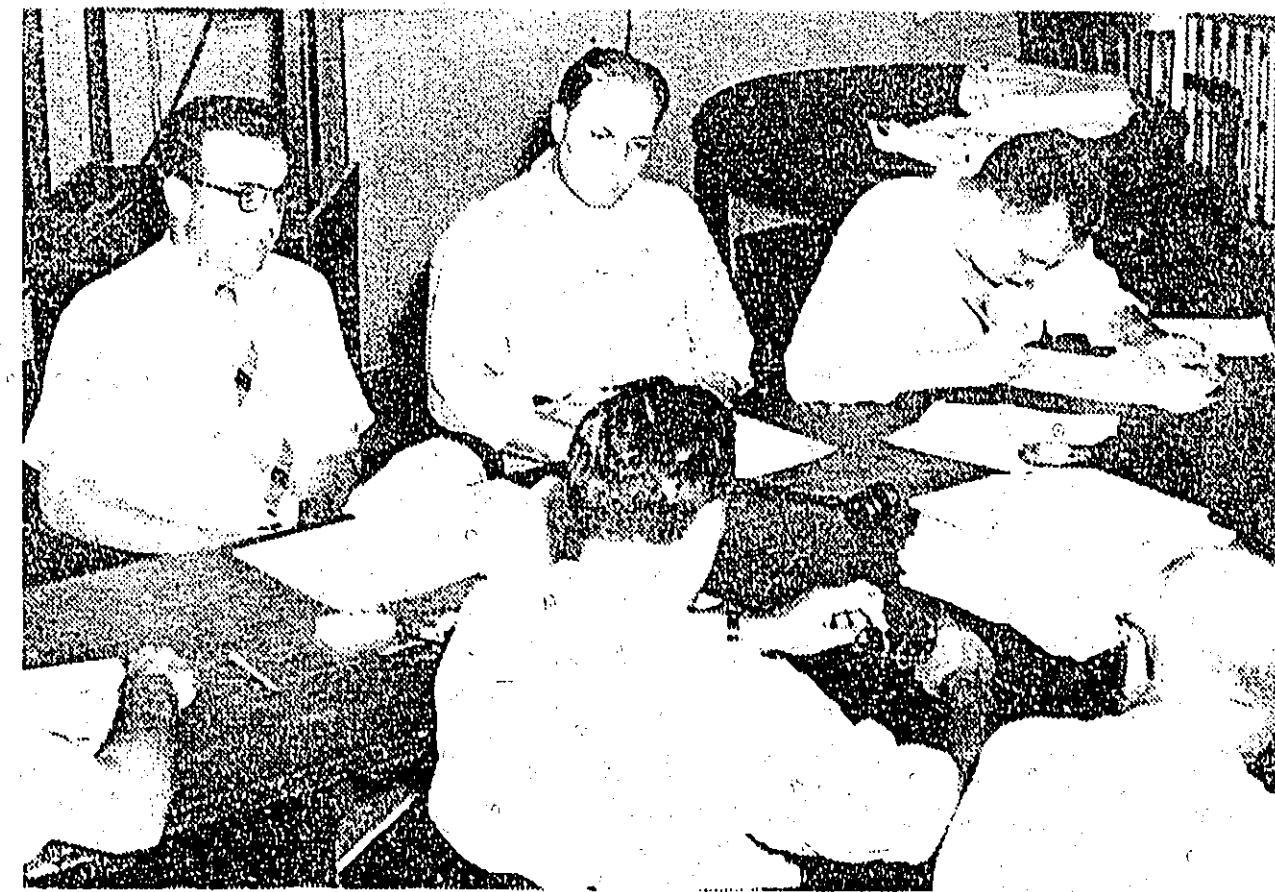
New York — The CIO Newspaper Guild ended its five-week strike against Consumers Union, publisher of the magazine, Consumer Reports, when the company agreed to settle the key retroactive pay issue along lines demanded by the union.

## Meeting Postponed

The next general membership meeting of UE Local 301 will be held at the union hall on Monday, Sept. 8. The meeting was originally scheduled for Sept. 1 but was postponed on account of Labor Day.

## GE's First Bargaining Offer Includes 8c to 13c Pay Hike

General Electric management made an initial wage offer to UE national negotiators which would mean increases of 8c to 13c an hour to workers in GE shops across the country. This offer, made Wednesday in New York, represented considerable progress over previous management proposals.



### NEGOTIATIONS REPORT.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau reports to the UE Local 301 executive board on the progress of UE-GE negotiations. Jandreau is a member of the union's national negotiating committee. Seated with Jandreau at the table are President James Cognetta and Recording Secretary Rudy Rissland.

However, it still fell short of meeting the needs of GE workers as represented by the union's demand for a 15c pay hike for everybody. The UE negotiating committee, which includes Business Agent Leo Jandreau of Local 301, immediately took the proposal under consideration.

The company's wage offer was figured on the basis of a 2½% increase, apparently tied to increased productivity, and a 3.26% cost of living boost. This totaled a 5.76% overall increase, which applied to present rates would mean an 8c hike for workers in the common labor classification and as much as 13c for day workers in the tool maker category. Piece workers would also receive the percentage stepup.

Under the management proposal, this wage increase would be effective Sept. 15 unless a complete agreement on all outstanding issues between the company and the union is reached by the end of the month. In that case the effective date of the offer would revert back to Aug. 15.

Completely absent from the com-  
(Continued on Page 3)

## Rome Strike Collection Pressed As Need Grows

UE Local 301's collection for the 1,300 striking UE members, who were forced to hit the bricks by the General Cable Corp. 11 weeks ago, topped the 500 mark early last week. However the fund for the aid of the strikers was still far short of its goal and the local Executive Board urged greater effort on the part of all shop stewards to insure the success of the drive.

The actual collection figure last Monday night was \$521. Since then several hundred dollars has been collected, but the additional funds had not been tabulated when this edition went to press.

In an effort to mobilize the collected money as rapidly as possible, the board Monday voted to send all monies collected thus far to UE Local 331 in Rome, and to assure them a total of \$100 a week out of the Schenectady union's treasury for the duration of the strike.

The issues in the Cable strike may well shape up as major items in the present GE-UE bargaining and therefore the welfare of the Rome strikers is of vital interest to UE Local 301 members.

## George A. Walker Dies, Long Active in UE 301

George A. Walker, long one of the most active members and leaders of UE Local 301, died at his Schenectady home last weekend. He was 64 years old.

Walker served for many years as a member of the local's executive board and as a trustee. He won the respect and affection of his fellow workers through his efforts on their behalf in fighting grievances and settling shop disputes.

At the time of his death, Walker was serving as a shop steward, a post he had held since the early days of UE, and as a member of the 301 Constitutions Committee.

He is survived by his wife, the former Alice Collins, and by four children, Reginald Walker and Joan Walker Harris, both of Bridgeport, Conn., and George and Olive Walker of Schenectady.

### Advice From Boss

UE members are ready to take good advice no matter where it comes from. This was proven last week when, in response to demands from the members, the union's national office had printed many thousand stickers bearing this wise counsel:

"Take it easy and you'll last longer."  
The statement was made by GE President Ralph Cordiner in a recent address to the American Management Association meeting held at New York's swank Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Cordiner meant his advice for fellow bosses but GE workers felt that it should apply to them too.  
UE Local 301 has ordered 1,000 of the stickers for distribution around the Schenectady works.



## Humphrey Prepares New Drive on Labor

Apparently prevented from proposing outright government selection of unions by UE's defense of democratic unionism, the Humphrey Senate labor sub-committee is now considering a flank attack on unions it doesn't like.

This flank attack is proposed by the committee staff under the direction of Jack Barbash, who took a leading role in the recent questioning of UE Director of Organization James Matles and National Legislative Representative Russ Nixon in Washington.

The report was submitted to Chairman Hubert Humphrey, Minnesota Democrat, and other members of the sub-group. It urged that National Labor Relations Board recognition be granted only to unions which set political qualifications for officers. Thus, democratic unions like UE, whose constitutions specifically prohibit any political, racial or religious discrimination, would be hit.



Looks like we'll have to look around for another candidate for that 'highest output per worker' award!

## AFL Maps Fight on T-H

The AFL executive council, meeting in Atlantic City, urged a united fight against the Taft-Hartley Act last week.

The Federation's action came on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the enactment of the slave labor law. The AFL plan calls for documenting the damage done to the trade union movement by T-H since its enactment in 1947.

## UE Petitions for Election In Pittsfield GE Plant

UE petitioned last week for a National Labor Relations Board election to determine the bargaining agent for the bulk of the General Electric employees in the big Pittsfield plant.

The petition coincided with a worsening of the layoff situation at Pittsfield GE. A large share of the responsibility for these layoffs rests with the IUE-CIO which has completely failed to take any steps to save the jobs of the Pittsfield workers. In fact, IUE has permitted the company to get away with designating layoffs of up to 13 weeks as "temporary," without protest.

By using the "temporary" layoff gimmick to cover almost everything, the company has been able to dispense with all seniority guarantees. As a result, many workers with 25 and 30 years of service are walking the streets.

GE has blamed the steel strike for the layoffs. However, just last week they issued a notice indicating that the lack of work situation is likely to get worse instead of better even though the steel walkout is ended.

## Voters Oust Labor Foe From Senate in Primary

Sen. Kenneth D. McKellar, who built a national reputation as a foe of organized labor and of civil rights legislation, will not be in the Senate next year. He was beaten in a bid for a seventh term by Rep. Albert Gore in the Democratic primaries.

McKellar entered the Senate in 1917. He led the fight against the New Deal Tennessee Valley Authority, which provided cheap electric power to hundreds of thousands of poverty-stricken southern farmers. The defeated legislator also was a leading advocate of Taft-Hartley and of virtually every other piece of anti-union legislation brought up during his 36 years in Washington.

## UE Drive in Saratoga Threatens End to Spa's Low Pay

The removal of Saratoga Springs from the nation's list of "cheap labor" communities loomed as a likelihood last week as UE prepared for a National Labor Relations Board election at the newly established Sherold Specialties Co. shop.

This shop has been set up just south of the Spa city on the Saratoga-Ballston Road in what formerly was an army supply depot. Actually, Sherold is a "runaway" shop from New York City where the same management operates two companies under the Sherold name, and under the name of Espey Products.

When the union learned that management planned to set up a big plant in Saratoga which eventually would probably absorb the production of both companies, it got busy and sent an organizer to Saratoga.

The organizer found Sherold was hiring workers at prevailing low wages — 85c an hour for women and \$1 an hour for men. He promptly visited all of the workers hired, explained the situation to them, and in turn got almost all of them to sign cards designating UE as their bargaining agent.

When the company learned of the UE activity it became alarmed at the thought of losing its

soft non-union setup and called in the local AFL bartenders' union business agent. With full management cooperation, the AFL man called a "meeting" right in the plant yard, and under the nose of top management forced the workers to sign AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker cards. He then petitioned for an NLRB vote.

However, instead of becoming intimidated by the obvious management-AFL plot to do them out of real union representation, the workers promptly formed a solid UE organization, and set to work bringing all employees who had not yet signed UE cards into the fold.

As a result, the union goes into an NLRB pre-election hearing, scheduled for Thursday, with the almost unanimous support of the Sherold workers.

There are currently about 60 persons employed in the new shop. Since the shop is making transformers and will undoubtedly subcontract for GE in Schenectady, the organization of the Saratoga plant is of vital importance to UE Local 301 members. Schenectady Shop Steward David Adinolfi, a resident of Saratoga, has been cooperating in the organizational efforts.

## Probe Speedup In Building 77

In a follow-up to the meeting two weeks ago between Works Manager Lewis Male and the entire UE Local 301 executive board, a special sub-committee is now studying speedup conditions in Building 77.

The meeting with Male was held because of the mounting indications that management was seeking to impose "by easy stages" a generalized speedup throughout the Schenectady works. This apparently was being accomplished largely through the combining of jobs and the imposition of extra duties on some workers while others were being laid off for "lack of work."

In order to combat this company drive, the union executive board voted to call on all workers not to do any work outside of that specifically assigned to them by their job definitions under the contract. Departmental meetings held throughout the works overwhelmingly endorsed this position.

It was because the situation in the Chemical Division was particularly bad that the sub-committee was set up to begin its work there. The investigators have already agreed that there is a need for at least two new persons in one classification and of an entirely new classification in Building 77.

The sub-committee, which is made up of union and management representatives, is continuing its probing of the situation.

## 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. 7: The works' laboratory porters and one truck driver object to their present work schedule, 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. with one hour for lunch, and ask instead that they be scheduled from 7:30 a. m. to 4 p. m., with a half hour lunch break.

Bldg. 11: Henry J. Jeffs believes rightfully that his present timing rate of 1.01 on the 24 inch engine lathe is inadequate. A proper increase, with the new rate to be based on similar lathe work in the division, is demanded.

Bldg. 49: Reginald Drake is classified as a B inspector. When he started on the job he was promised by his foreman and by the personnel director of Gas Turbine that he would receive the job rate within six months. That was eight months ago and the job rate has still not been given to Drake. The union demands that supervision live up to its agreement and give this man the job rate with proper retroactivity.

Bldg. 52: William Bourne was given a warning notice for not reporting to work on one day. This was the first day lost within a three month period and Bourne was able to explain that he was out for personal reasons. However, supervision takes the position that if Bourne loses another day he will be subject to discharge. Since many other employees in the same group have lost far more time, this is a case of outright discrimination. The union demands fair treatment for this worker.

In another case of discrimination against Bourne, who is classified as a crane follower, Assis-

tant General Foreman Huston reprimanded him in abusive language for allegedly not working while on the job. Actually, at the time of the incident, Bourne was in his working area waiting for empty trailers which he needed to continue his work. An end to this type of abuse and threats is demanded.

A. De Roches and A. Coons protest the prices set on drilling binding band brackets. The price established by a time study was 11c rather than the proper price of 18c. As a result, the complainants are unable to maintain their earnings. An adjustment is demanded.

P. Cognetta asks a proper price increase for the assembling stator frame job 522E462. Since this is a new job, he also wants sequences of assembly to be furnished and a time study taken to arrive at a fair price.

Kenneth Hendrie is protesting the price on 153-D-606 for assembly, weld, grind, sand, match top and bottom and drill and tap. The price offered was 4.10 rather than a proper 8.00. An equitable adjustment is demanded.

A group in assembly had previously complained about overmanning in their department. At that time, a third shift had been added. Since the situation persists and can no longer be considered temporary, the group demands an immediate reduction of forces to cut lost time.

Bldg. 60: It has always been the practice to send A. C. stators with slot lengths of 15 inches or more, diameters of 96 inches

or more and voltages of above 6,600 to station 63 rather than to station 97. This agreement among the A. C. winders, supervision and Building 41 is now being violated. The union asks a return to normal practice.

Bldg. 64: A group under Foreman Dixon is protesting the assignment of an A inspector to piece work at a time when piece workers are losing time through lack of work. Supervision has never made any attempt to equalize overtime between these two jobs, and therefore the group feels it grossly unfair to attempt to share lost time in this manner. An investigation and correction of the situation is demanded.

Bldg. 66: A group of chippers are protesting against the assignment of men from other groups to do chipping and grinding. Although supervision has failed to notify the union of the creation of another job classification, as is required under article VI-2 of the contract, apparently such a group is being established in which welders are required to chip,

grind and file. An end to this contract violation is demanded.

Bldg. 69: Paul Truax feels that the present method of pricing wiring and assembling jobs in 69 is inadequate. The union demands breakdown of prices on wiring and assembling jobs in line with the practices prevailing in Building 81 and other parts of control.

The following special labor conveyor attendants are performing the full job requirement on the conveyor line and the full job rate of \$1.51 is demanded for them: L. Nagi, J. R. Cruz, Bostwick and C. De Lorenzo.

Bldg. 273: When Anthony Ciabotte is absent from his job as drill press operator, his work is handled by an assembler with a much higher rate. Similarly, the job is done by piece workers on second shift. The union therefore demands that he either be reclassified with a rate increase or put on piece work.

William Lampert has approximately five years service. Until he was seriously injured on the job in March, he worked as a chipper. He returned to work as a sweeper in July with the understanding that this assignment would only be until he fully recovered from the effects of his accident. The works hospital has now qualified him to return to work as a chipper, but Turbine supervision refuses to reassign him. The union demands that Lampert either be given his old job or another job with equal rate and classification.

The lagers in the exciter group believe that the assignment of an inexperienced worker to the six foot radial drill press in their overcrowded work area constitutes a major safety hazard. They demand that this situation be corrected immediately.

## Negotiations

(Continued from Page 1)

pany's proposal was any offer to meet the UE demands for ending discrimination against women workers, for providing special increases to take care of skilled workers and day workers and for eliminating geographical differentials.

The company proposals last week did include improvements in the insurance, hospitalization and medical care provisions of the contract. On the insurance clause, management proposed \$2.50 weekly increase in benefits to workers receiving insurance payments.

The hospitalization improvement would provide hospitalized workers with 75% for special hospital services (anesthesia, extra nursing care, etc.) of above \$100 and up to \$2,100.

The company also proposed that in non-surgical cases payments of up to \$3 per visit would be made to doctors for visits to hospitalized workers. This would have a \$175 limit. Finally GE proposed a 50% increase in current maternity benefits.

Another company proposal to the UE negotiators concerned so-called unauthorized stoppages. Management suggested a new contract which would prohibit the union from instituting a stoppage on a grievance more than 60 days after that grievance had been processed through to the New York City and the company had made its final decision on it.

This revision would also provide for disciplinary action, presumably including discharge, for workers taking part in stoppages not formally approved by the union.

## Set Inventory Schedule For Many Works Units

Inventory dates have been set in a number of divisions of the Schenectady works according to information sent to the union by management. In addition, tentative dates have been proposed for taking stock in several other departments.

The divisions for which definite dates have been established are Chemical, Foundry, Large Motor and Generator and Industrial Heating, all Friday, Aug. 22; and the Works Service except for Shipping and Box and Cabinet, Monday, Aug. 25.

The inventory date for gas and steam turbine has tentatively been set for Saturday, Aug. 23.

The following divisions will take inventory late in September, with no definite date yet established:

A and O Service, Control, Small and Medium Motor, Cable Construction Materials, General Engineering Laboratory, Tube and Research Laboratory.

In each of these divisions part of the working force will be em-

## Report Fitzgerald Hits GE Contract Proposals

In the first official UE comment on the new General Electric contract proposals, President Albert J. Fitzgerald was quoted by the Federated Press as saying the offer "falls far short of meeting the needs of the people on economic questions."

According to the FP, Fitzgerald added, "It intensifies the problem of women and day workers and tends to widen the wage differentials between them and other workers."



**HAVING THEIR SAY.** Executive board members Joseph Saccocio and Lawrence Gebo raise points of interest to the workers in their divisions in a discussion at last week's board meeting. The chief topic of discussion was the UE-GE negotiations in New York City. Also on the agenda were the General Cable strike collection and a discussion of union finances including the proposed dues raise.

