

## UNION ACTION HALTS SURPLUS FOOD STOPPAGE

Local 301 last week received word from an Albany source that all surplus food would shortly be cut off for relief cases and hardship cases.

The local office immediately contacted the office of Speaker Heck, Schenectady's Assemblyman, and notified him of what had been learned.

Two days and many phone calls later from the Speaker's office assured union headquarters that the surplus food supply would continue.

However, some problems were involved. It seemed that when the legislature cut some of the Governor's proposed budget, some of these cuts came in the administration of transporting surplus food. It therefore was planned to deliver the food to institutions only.

But the hue and cry started by Local 301 and the apparent desire on the part of the legislature to continue the program, saved the situation at least temporarily.

The money left in the surplus budget, according to an aide to Heck, will be used to continue the program. When the money is gone, the legislature will be asked for more. The aide seemed sure there will be no problem securing the additional funds.

## RED BAITING NOT YET DEAD

There have been two news stories in the public press recently, alluding to communism.

The first told of a pamphlet which was alleged to be signed by the Schenectady Communist Party and sponsored by labor. The union chose to ignore this largely because of its otherwise unsigned nature and because of the levity used in describing the pamphlet.

But shortly thereafter, another short story appeared indicating communism should be kept out of the schools. Obviously, this is a matter for the school administration to answer, if an answer is called for.

The second story was quoting Mario Pacelli, a candidate for the school board, running against Leon Novak, labor's candidate for the same post.

## UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE SET IN WASHINGTON

The IUE will join with other AFL-CIO unions April 8th, in Washington, D. C. for a conference on unemployment.

Local 301 will have representation from Schenectady. The conference is being held in place of the march on Washington which had been urged by some national leaders.

The march was to have been conducted by the unemployed in an effort to force the Eisenhower administration into action to end joblessness.

The conference will be held in the National Guard Armory at 10:00 a.m., April 8th.

In a letter to Locals of the IUE, James B. Carey, President, said there are at least five million unemployed and ten million on short work week.

He said technological change, inept leadership from the administration and Congress and greed inspired plant movements on the part of employers all contribute to endangering the gains of our members in the years past.

## FOREMAN VOLUNTEERS FOR HEAVY WORK

A foreman in building 59, has volunteered to do the heavy work for tallymen.

It seems a tallyman was told by the foreman to pick up a box weighing 178 pounds. The tallymen objected because the box was too heavy. The foreman said it was being done in Bldg. 273, and showed how easy it was, picking it up himself.

A board member suggested that in the future when ever a box had to be picked up the foreman would be summoned.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD TO MEET

The Executive Board of Local 301 will meet Monday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Union Hall. Officers will meet prior to the Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

This is a situation for all union members to watch, Red baiting died in this country a few years ago but some of its scars are still visible. It has a tendency to hurt those who use it most and of ultimately destroying them.

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

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## GE's Promises After No-Strike Vote Empty; Economic Picture Worsens



CENTER OF STATE ST. BUSINESS — This Restaurant closed a few months ago. It is just one of many empty business places throughout the city as a result of unemployment.

Last year, when emotions were running high over the possibility of a strike at General Electric here, a series of ads were taken in the public newspaper showing what a ghost town Schenectady would become if industrial was declared. Every finger was pointed at the International Union of Electrical Workers as the giant villain which would bring economic distress to the area by firing the first shot asking for some employment security.

### Pressure on Union

The pressure brought to bear on the membership of Local 301 was unparalleled in the union's history. But it made a profound impression on the members; it caused them to think that perhaps they were being unreasonable; so they voted against a strike.

So what has happened? The economic picture in Schenectady is worse now than at any time since the great depression. This was not to happen if Local 301 co-operated with other community forces by avoiding a strike.

And can an improvement be expected? No. In fact layoffs are continuing at a rapid pace with between 40 and 50 more on the street each week. This is just at GE. The same thing is happening at ALCO and at various other business establishments throughout the area.

### Empty Stores

One walk up and down the main business section of State Street should convince the average Schenectadian what is happening to business in this city. Empty store after empty store. Just from Jay Street to Broadway, where there used to be three large restaurants, there is now one restaurant and a luncheonette.

The city's second largest hotel has been forced to close its doors and just at a time when a full house would have been guaranteed every weekend for the next six or seven weeks. That's what happened last year when the New York State Women's Bowling Championship Tournament was held here.

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## 'Operation Upturn' Big Success For Cordiner But Lay-offs Up

"Operation Upturn" has been a huge success, at least in some quarters.

For instance, General Electric's Chairman of the Board Ralph Cordiner is enjoying a profitable present and can look forward to a rosy future.

Because the annual notice of a meeting of shareholders points out that in 1958 Cordiner earned \$279,974 plus incentive compensation in stock amounting to 1,988 shares.

And Cordiner exercised his right as one of the top officers to purchase another 9,000 more shares

for \$23 each when the market showed they were worth \$62.

These figures are practically the same for the other top officers of the giant firm, President Robert Paxton and Finance Committee Chairman Philip Reed.

And while these figures indicate a profitable present, here are some more that indicate the Big Three won't have to worry too much about the future.

Each of the Big Three is participating in GE's pension plan. The annual report says that if Cordiner Paxton and Reed remain in the

company's service until they reach 65 they will:

Cordiner, after having contributed a total of \$91,000, receive \$48,000 a year for life; Paxton, after having contributed \$66,000 receive \$40,000 a year for life and Reed, after having contributed \$66,000, receive \$49,000 a year for life.

If these figures are correct, and they came from the company, then Cordiner, Paxton and Reed will have collected everything they put into the pension fund in less than two years and from then on will

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# TVA Report On Turbine Highlighted

Recent discussions at union meetings and between individual members have suggested there is still some confusion as to why General Electric lost the large steam turbine order to the C. A. Parsons Co. of England.

It therefore seemed necessary to highlight some of the parts of the Tennessee Valley Authority's report on what it considered "a lack of understanding of the facts on the matter."

The TVA report was an excellent one. But when considered in the light that it came from a government agency, it was superb.

Basically, the facts are these: The Parsons' bid was \$6 million lower than the evaluated bids of the other bidders, GE and Westinghouse.

Prices for the American turbines, built by three domestic firms, increased 51 per cent since 1951 while the wholesale price of all commodities went up only about five per cent.

Parsons was the only firm which would accept a contract calling for payment of damages to TVA if the turbine was delivered late.

The evaluated Westinghouse and GE bids were nearly 50 per cent higher than the Parsons bid.

Broken down, it looks something like this:

The domestic bidders were allowed a legal 12 per cent higher bid than the foreign bid. But TVA went further, as allowed for depressed areas, and stretched the 12 per cent differential to 20 per cent.

The 20 per cent price advantage given U. S. firms was in addition to the import duty the foreign firm would have to pay which would bring the difference to over \$2.6 million.

Therefore, the total price advantage enjoyed by domestic bidders as a result of these two items alone amounted to over \$4 million. And the foreign bidders had further costs of ocean transportation and marine insurance.

The TVA went further by discounting the wage factor for the difference in bids. It pointed out that the difference in labor costs is about \$1.5 million or about the same as the import duty the British firm will have to pay.

As far as defense is concerned, which is what GE had based its objection on, TVA destroyed the argument simply by saying that one big bomb could demolish American manufacturing plans as quickly as British firms.

TVA remained polite up to a certain extent in that it never mentioned the profit mark-up by GE

# Civic Group and Labor Join Hands for Novak

For the first time in the history of this city, an active civic group has joined forces with labor to elect a candidate to the city board of education.

That civic group is the Schenectady Citizens Committee for Public Schools and labor in this instance is Local 301 of the IUE.

These two potent forces have launched a campaign to place Leon Novak, Local 301's attorney, on the board of education as a representative and spokesman for labor.

Novak has been associated with the labor movement for 29 years and for 12 years has been a full-time attorney for Local 301.

He is an expert on labor law and for many years was a member of the National Labor Relations Board. He is particularly expert in the field of compensation and thousands of members of Local 301 have benefited from his knowledge in the courts.

Novak has received the support of the Area CIO Council which represents labor in five counties and from the atomic energy local at Knolls.

It is unusual for labor to sponsor a candidate for a public post but it is even more unusual for a group such as the citizens committee to back him. This joining of forces brings together two very important elements within the community and marks a milestone in the advancement of labor and community relations.

But putting a labor representative on school boards is a part of nationwide campaign by the AFL-

# Office Workers Begin to See Need for Unions

The office workers at the General Electric Co. are beginning to recognize the need for organized labor.

Here's an example: Virginia Hammill, building 269, has 11 years service as an operator of a multilift offset duplicator.

She was removed from the job because the company said it could be done by a person with two years or less service and for much lower pay and more efficiently.

The Taft-Hartley Law allows any individual to appoint his or her own bargaining agent, so Mrs. Hammill, a widow, went to Fay Hildreth, a board member of Local 301, IUE.

and Westinghouse. But it definitely left the impression that it had explored all the other elements and found answers to all of them.

CIO to broaden labor's participation in community functions.

And it is also a part of Local 301's drive to make the community better understand the workings of the union and what its day-to-day activities are.

Novak has been visiting individual schools for several weeks and his observations in some instances are startling and in others encouraging.

For instance, though he finds the general educational standards good, he was distressed over some of the shop facilities for youngsters studying for a trade.

He said he observed machinery designed to prepare boys for shops which were 25 or more years old. Since the largest percentage of the student body does not continue on to college, Novak emphasized the necessity of having adequate shop training. He pointed out that this was particularly true in an industrial city such as Schenectady.

The officers and executive board, following approval by the membership, have urged all members of Local 301 to "get out and vote for Novak" in the May 5 school board election.

They said a large vote by Local 301 would do two very important things: It would put a labor representative on the board and it would show the community that labor is vitally concerned with the education of American children at a time when the Russians are rapidly gaining and in some instances, passing the U. S.

# Wage Hikes Seen Good For Nation

A Harvard economist has declared that wage increases during the recession have been the most stabilizing factor in the American economy.

This, from a conservative university professor, comes in the face of charges by General Electric that inflation is the direct result of high wages.

This also is in the face of the fact that the Federal Reserve Bank reports that "United States producers may be pricing themselves out of the world market . . ."

It has already been shown that wages had nothing to do with GE's loss of a turbine contract to a foreign firm and it has been indicated that perhaps GE ought to take a new look at some of its profits.

# Carey Asks To Speak to Stockholders

James B. Carey, president of the International Union of Electric Workers, has asked General Electric's Ralph Cordiner for an opportunity to speak before the company stockholders April 23 in Cleveland.

In a letter to Cordiner, Carey said there were several matters he "would like to discuss with the shareholders of the company, both in my capacity as president of the International . . . and as a shareholder in the company"

Carey said he was anxious to discuss with the owners of the company the problems of employment security generally and listed seven areas he would talk about specifically.

The annual shareholders meeting is being held in Cleveland this year for the first time. In the past it has always been held in Schenectady, the home of the GE chain.

# Union News to Be Published at End of Month

IUE Local 301 News from now on will be published at the end of each month. It will print all current news concerning labor and will summarize what has taken place during the first three weeks of the month.

During the first three weeks, Local 301 will publish a bulletin which will keep the membership abreast of what is happening in the shops and at union headquarters.

# J. J. Cognetti Heads Area CIO Council

The Schenectady Area CIO Council elected officers Tuesday night at a meeting at the Steelworkers Hall.

James J. Cognetti, board member of Local 301 and a former president of the local, was elected president of the council.

Other officers elected are David Danzig, president of Local 2054, United Steelworkers, vice-president; William Mastrianni, local 301, financial secretary; Ed Kaminski, Local 301, recording secretary; Moe Rosenfelt, Steelworkers, treasurer; Sam Kappel, insurance workers, sergeant at arms; Ed Lukas, steel; Sterling Conaway, atomic energy and Carmella Ramona, Maqua, trustees.

The council represents labor unions in five counties including Schenectady, Schoharie, Hamilton, Montgomery and Warren.

# C. of C. Set Back by Scholarship Council Pay Action Fund Rules Outlined

The Schenectady Chamber of Commerce, already reeling from blows dealt by county and town boards, went down for the count Monday night when the city council followed the recommendation of Local 301 and approved a hike in the national minimum wage from \$1. to \$1.25.

The action by the council followed similar action taken recently by the county board of supervisors, the Rotterdam town board and Glenville town board.

Approval by the four governing boards for the higher minimum wage was sparked when Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, blasted the chamber for being "anti-Schenectady" in opposing the increase.

The city council action was unanimous. Those voting for it were Mayor Kenneth Sheldon, and Councilman Arthur Goehm, both Republicans; and Dr. Fred Isabella and Edward Wallingford, both Democrats.

And it wasn't simply a "yes" vote. Each of the councilmen and

the mayor stood up and verbally expressed his approval of the bill now before Congress.

John Shambo, Local 301 president, urged the council to approve the resolution as he did before the supervisors last week.

If passed in Congress, the bill would also extend the fair labor standards act to retail and service workers not now covered. It would mean an additional 9 million persons would be protected.

But the bill would not affect many businessmen or merchants in the city. Most workers now make the minimum or more and most small businesses are not included in the Federal law.

Shambo pointed out that the areas which would feel the increase most are in the south where wage standards are far below the rest of the nation.

He added that these low wage standards have hurt the north as far as attracting new industries is concerned and have been a major factor in local industries deciding to move out.

The executive board of Local 301 Monday night adopted the following rules concerning the scholarship fund for which collections are now being made.

The board decided that recipients must be children of members of the union; that they must make application for the fund; that standard rules be used for making the award; that a financial need is obvious and that a union committee will serve with the professional educators in making the final selection.

Frank Masteron, chairman of the fund raising committee, reported the scholarship drive has collected about \$700 but that there were still many shop stewards who have not reported.

He pointed out that if every member gave only \$1.00, there would be well over \$9,000 available for deserving youngsters who want to go to college.

# IUE FILM TO BE SEEN ON TV, PREVIEW AT UNION HALL SET

Invitations will go out this week to community leaders for a preview of an IUE film which is slated to be seen on W-TEN TV April 5, at 3:30 p.m.

The film, produced by the IUE in Washington, will be seen on a nationwide basis and will expose General Electric's decentralization program.

The preview for community leaders and shop stewards will be held in Union Hall Tuesday, March 31 at 8:30 p.m.

Titled "Help Wanted" the presentation will depict the grim consequences of giant industry, particularly GE, recklessly playing

"industrial checkers" by moving major work operations from established communities to smaller plants in areas of anti labor legislation, cheap labor and easy or no taxes.

Producers of the film visited George Waldrup, 58 of East Orange, N. J., a war veteran, widower with six children who lost his job when GE moved the Bloomfield plant.

The film also will visit other cities which have felt the affects of decentralization and point to the large number of unemployed as a result.

# 30,000 Workers Transferred Since 1954

From 1954 to 1958, 15,000 persons were transferred from one department to another, according to company figures.

It is reasonable to assume that there were at least as many transferred to different jobs within departments.

It is also reasonable to assume that by far the largest share of these transfers involved downgrading and loss of take home pay.

These downgrades, transfers and the loss of pay involved, coupled with the thousands of layoffs and down right cut off of pay, can

hardly be expected to promote the "hail fellow, well met," attitude considered desirable for a healthy industrial climate.

But they can be expected to promote a new look by the community and the company of their attitudes toward the plight of the persons who are suffering the most from the current recession.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (PAI) — Governor William G. Stratton has notified the 71st Illinois General Assembly that he opposes any state "right-to-work" law.

# Shop Meetings Slated by Union to Clear Issues

The executive board of Local 301 has approved a schedule of shop meetings for union members during lunch periods. The meetings began Wednesday and will continue through April 3.

The board urged all members to attend the meetings because many questions affecting the union's program will be cleared up.

The schedule is as follows:

Date	Board Member	Bldg.	Shift	Speaker
Wed., Mar. 25	Brothers	285	2	Shambo, Mangino
	Etzel	285	1	Vitallo
	Martucci	285	3	Shambo, Mangino
	Wager	50	1	Christman
	Koral	50	2	Christman
Thur., Mar. 26	Kelly, Stockheim	273	1	Shambo, Mangino
	White	273	2	Shambo, Mangino
	Cornicelli, Martucci	273	3	Shambo, Mangino
	DeGraff	71-85	1	Christman
Mon., Mar. 30	Podell	273	1	Kelly, Vitallo
	Alois	273	2	Shambo, Mangino
	Wager, DeMarco	42-40	1	Shambo, Christman
		18-40B-42		
Tues., Mar. 31	Harrison	273	1	Kelly, Vitallo
	White	273	2	Shambo, Mangino
Wed., Apr. 1	Ward	16	1	Shambo, Mangino
	Martin	16	2	Shambo, Mangino
Thurs., Apr. 2	Cognetta	52	1	Shambo, Mangino
	Donato	60	1	Shambo, Mangino
	Mastriani	66	1	Shambo, Mangino
	Martin	52-60-66	2	Shambo, Mangino
Fri., Apr. 3	Masteron	5-37	1	Shambo

CLEVELAND (PAI) — Committees representing the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers and the International Chemical Workers are engaged in merger negotiations. According to the time-table a proposed constitution will be submitted to the joint merger committee between March 15 and May 15.

NEW YORK (PAI) — The National Maritime Union and the Seafarers International have set up a joint committee to resolve disputes which may arise in the future. The agreement calls upon both sides to withdraw any pending charges and court actions.