

## Draft Head Plans UE-GE Conference

Local 301 has taken the lead among GE locals against the company's rigid policy of making a veteran return to exactly the same job and shop even though he prefers or is willing to take another equally good job.

Leo Jandreau, Frank Emspak and Ed Wallingford went to Washington to discuss the company's policy with Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, U. S. director of Selective Service.

They complained that the GE policy of telling a veteran he would lose his rights unless he went back to precisely the same job is unfair to the veteran, the union and other union members at the plant.

If the veteran wants the same place back of course he must have it, the union members said, but if he agrees to change job or shop the change should be allowed. This more flexible policy would stop some unnecessary "bumping" of workers and safeguard all the veterans' rights.

General Hershey said the union's request "has merit". He told the Schenectady union representatives he would have the State Selective Service office in Albany call a conference of GE and Local 301 officials on the matter.

## Veterans Aid the Fight on Discrimination



This is the Schenectady delegation sent to the Veterans' Conference at Chicago. Front row, l. to r., Steve Zdunczyk, AFL, Dewey Brashear, secretary, of Local 301 Veterans' Committee; and George Vrooman. Rear, left to right, Horace Perriman and Joseph Dominelli, chairman of the Veterans' Committee.

## Committee Plans Leadership Course

A course in Community Leadership is being planned by the Educational Committee according to an announcement by Fay Marvin, chairman of the committee. It is being planned as an aid to the Political Action Committees in the various wards.

The classes will include subject matter on how to lead discussions, public speaking, preparation and arrangement of material for discussions and speeches, development of volunteer help and ward organization. The work will be under the direction of Milo Lathrop, educational director. Those who are interested should contact him or the chairman.

Plans are also being developed for the continuation and the expansion of the park discussion programs so successfully started last summer.

Details of the company proposals will be published in the Apr. 18 Electrical Union News.

## Contract Proposals

(Continued from Page One)

thousands of dollars in benefits for which they won't even pay a dollar a month dues,—let alone work or fight," various members said.

Local 301 okayed UE proposals for the national GE contract and added two recommendations.

1. That pensions be computed on the basis of total time employed with the company, regardless of any break in service.

2. That 21 days of sick leave per year for each employee be asked.

These two recommendations were adopted by the GE Conference Board and will be presented to the company. Suggestions from other locals were also approved.

## 301 SENDS VETERANS TO CHICAGO MEETING

A delegation of five members represented Local 301 at the weekend Chicago conference to form a new type of veterans' organization to emphasize the problems of Negro ex-servicemen and veterans of other minority groups.

The Schenectady group included Dewey Brashear, Joseph Dominelli, Steve Zdunczyk, George Vrooman and Horace Perriman.

The meeting was called because of the need to attack job discrimination because of race, creed or national origin, housing discrimination, quota systems in education, voting restrictions, violations of civil rights, police brutality and lynchings.

# Electrical Union News

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

Vol. 11 1—No. 13

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

April 18, 1946



ANDREW PETERSON

## Veterans' Training Urged by Peterson

Andrew Peterson, president of Local 301, urged that GE and other Capital District firms start apprenticeship training and on-the-job training courses for veterans, at a recent Albany conference.

The meeting of labor and management representatives was called by A. J. McGinty, area director of the U. S. Employment Service.

McGinty said 13,604 unemployed veterans have registered with USES for jobs in the 17-county Albany district. There are 8,601 jobless veterans registered in Schenectady, Albany and Rensselaer counties alone.

Peterson pointed out that veterans are faced with the problem of low pay even when they manage to obtain jobs.

"Many companies offer a GI exactly the same job he used to have and make no allowance for the fact that now he has a wife and family to support. All employers should establish training courses, as provided by the GI bill of rights. Then the veteran is trained for a better job and gets a living wage while he is learning."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Strong Union Contract Is Only Defense Against Speed-up, Rate-Cut Plan of GE

The plans of the General Electric Co. to reduce the living standards of their employes become clearer every day, Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, warned union members on the eve of 1946 contract negotiations.

### MEDAL FOR JANDREAU

Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent who has been chairman of Selective Service Board 355 since the draft started, received the Selective Service medal for Schenectady County boards at ceremonies at the State Armory in Albany Apr. 10.



LEO JANDREAU

### New Local Chartered

Andrew Peterson, president of Local 301, Leo Jandreau, Ray Flanigan, Edward Wallingford, William Mastriani, George Farrell, John Boyle and Anthony Esposito drove to Fort Edward Saturday for the installing of the charter of Local 323, UE.

### Political Action

Representatives of Schenectady CIO unions completed plans for organizing Citizens' Political Action Committees in each ward of the city at a meeting, Monday night at Local 301 headquarters.

Local 2054, United Steel Workers, was represented by: Anthony Barbieri, president; Ray Nusser and Thomas Fyvie, members of the Executive Board.

Local 301: Andrew Peterson, president; William Mastriani, chief shop steward; Paul Canders, Executive Board member, and Milo Lathrop, political action director.

Local 432, Laundry Workers: Leonard Colasuono, president; Rachel Cangiano, organizer, and Mary Cuomo.

Local 159, Transport Workers Union, Al Petteys, secretary-treasurer, and A. B. McCabe.

"In the offices, the company has started to lay off employes," he said. "Those remaining will be speeded up to turn out the work of those laid off."

"In the factory a drive is under way to reduce incentive payments for piece workers. When a worker learns how to cut a few corners and increase his output, to increase his earnings through greater effort and greater efficiency, the company wants to cut his rate."

Jandreau said that in newspaper advertisements the GE goes on record piously that "humanity comes before dollars."

"But in practice they run for the dollars," he declared. "They are determined to get their 13 per cent profit, whatever the cost to their employes."

"How does GE plan to get its ever-increasing profits? By refusing to sign a fair contract with the union."

"The company wants a contract which will give it a free hand for speed-up and rate cutting."

"GE always demands a written contract with its customers, before making a sale."

"This same protection must be given to the workers who sell their labor to the company. Their homes and families depend upon a stable income. Only a strong contract can guarantee that."

Contract negotiations started Tuesday morning, in New York City.

Electrical Union News will receive day-by-day accounts of the bargaining sessions from Jandreau, to be published Thursday. Read them and keep informed about progress toward the new contract.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
WORKERS OF AMERICA, C.I.O.  
Schenectady, N.Y. Local 301

Published by the Editorial Committee  
Dwight Bradburn Ray Flanigan  
Milo Lathrop Fay Marvin  
William Mastriani  
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News  
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.  
Schenectady Printing Co., Inc.

## Jandreau Explains Union's Proposals For Pension Plan

The average GE worker in Schenectady is 40 years old and has worked 14 years for the company.

No wonder he is interested in the pension clause of the UE proposals for the 1946 GE contract.

The union this year will insist that the pension provisions be written into the contract, Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, said.

In the past the company has refused to include pensions in the contract. It wanted the right to change or end its present system at any time.

The union has proposed two chief improvements in pensions.

1. That "wages not paid an employe by the company because of time lost on Union work inside or outside of the plant or as a result of industrial accident will be included in earnings in computing amount of pension to be paid employe by the company."

2. That "the present formula for computing the pension at 1.5 per cent of earnings at 70 years (for men) will be applied at 65 years and for women at 60 years."

"How can the union ask its older and more experienced members to do union work," Jandreau commented, "at the risk of lowering their pensions? The money paid them by the union for time lost from their GE work should be counted in computing their earnings for pension purposes."

Jandreau said that if the company believes in collective bargaining, as it publicly states, it should agree to this "lost time" provision for the sake of fairness, union efficiency and democracy.

The second proposal would help workers retire earlier and would aid younger people who need jobs, Jandreau pointed out.

## Local 301 Broadcasts Are Now Popular Feature In Union and Community Life



MILO LATHROP

Telephone calls, fan mail, remarks in the shops and on the street show that the Local 301 radio broadcasts are now popular with the community as a whole, as well as with union members.

There was a time when Local 301 used to go on the air only in emergencies or on special occasions.

Now the union programs, directed by Milo Lathrop, are heard every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:15 p.m. over WSNY. (1240 on your dial).

To prepare for the wage battle, the Local started its WSNY program last Dec. 17. From that time until the strike started Jan. 15, the broadcasts concentrated on facts showing the need for wage increases.

During the strike the programs kept the union members and their friends informed on up-to-the-minute local and national developments of the strike.

Many members of the union talked over the "mike" on wages, shop grievances, organizing office workers, picketing, veterans' problems, interests of women workers, injunctions, local politics, the attitude of the police, and other subjects.

Since the strike the radio programs have centered their fire on two major goals.

1. Winning an improved contract with the GE

2. Political action to safeguard the union's wage gains.

## Veterans' Training Urged by Peterson

(Continued from Page 1)

On returning to Schenectady, Peterson talked with members of the Local 301 Veterans' Committee on plans to press for such training courses at once at GE.

Local 301 will also seek a change in the GE policy of returning veterans to jobs at boys' rates. Under this policy a veteran who is now over 21 years old returns to his old job and boy's rate if he was under 21 when he left for military service.

During the war GE boasted of how much it would do for veterans on their return. The Local 301 committee is determined to see the promises are kept.

## Note for Jobless—

We hope you don't have to use this information, but here it is.

The temporary office of the State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance at the armory has been closed. All Schenectady claims for unemployment insurance are now handled at the main office, 271 State St., Schenectady.

## Delegates Attend Peace Conference

William Mastriani and William Kelly were the Local 301 delegates to the Win-the-Peace Conference at Washington D. C. Charles Rivers represented District 3, UE, and Robert Northrop of Local 2351, United Steel Workers, was delegate of the Capitol District CIO Council.

The conference urged close unity of the Big Three, the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain, as the foundation for an effective United Nations and a peaceful world.

It called for a democratic American foreign policy. It demanded destruction of the last remnants of Fascism everywhere in the world.

Newspapers in general did "a miserable and unfair job" of reporting the conference, Bill Kelly declared when he returned to Schenectady.

"Most papers either didn't mention the Conference or just printed attacks of Congressman Rankin and his Committee on un-American Activities," he said.

"It was a good Conference and a good

## Laugh of the Week

E. D. Spicer, GE vice-president, complained to Schenectady newspapers that Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, made "confusing statements" about the company's 1946 contract proposals.

It seems the company doesn't object to the union shop after all!

According to Spicer, "the company's proposal simply provides that a person who is otherwise a satisfactory employe shall not lose his job because he is not, or does not remain, a member of a union."

Who is confused now?  
And another thing, Spicer said it was very, very confusing for Jandreau to say a proposal to cut rates is a proposal to cut rates.

program. All fair-minded people would think so."

"If we had more people in Congress like Pepper, Sabath, Marcantonio, and Powell we could go to bed nights without feeling that war and Fascism are threatening us. But we know there's trouble ahead with people like Rankin in places of power."

## CIO Backs National Cancer Fund Drive

The National CIO has endorsed the cancer control drive which will start next week in Schenectady.

There will be no money solicited in any of the plants or industries. Workers will have a chance to contribute to this important undertaking through collections in downtown stores, banks and theaters.

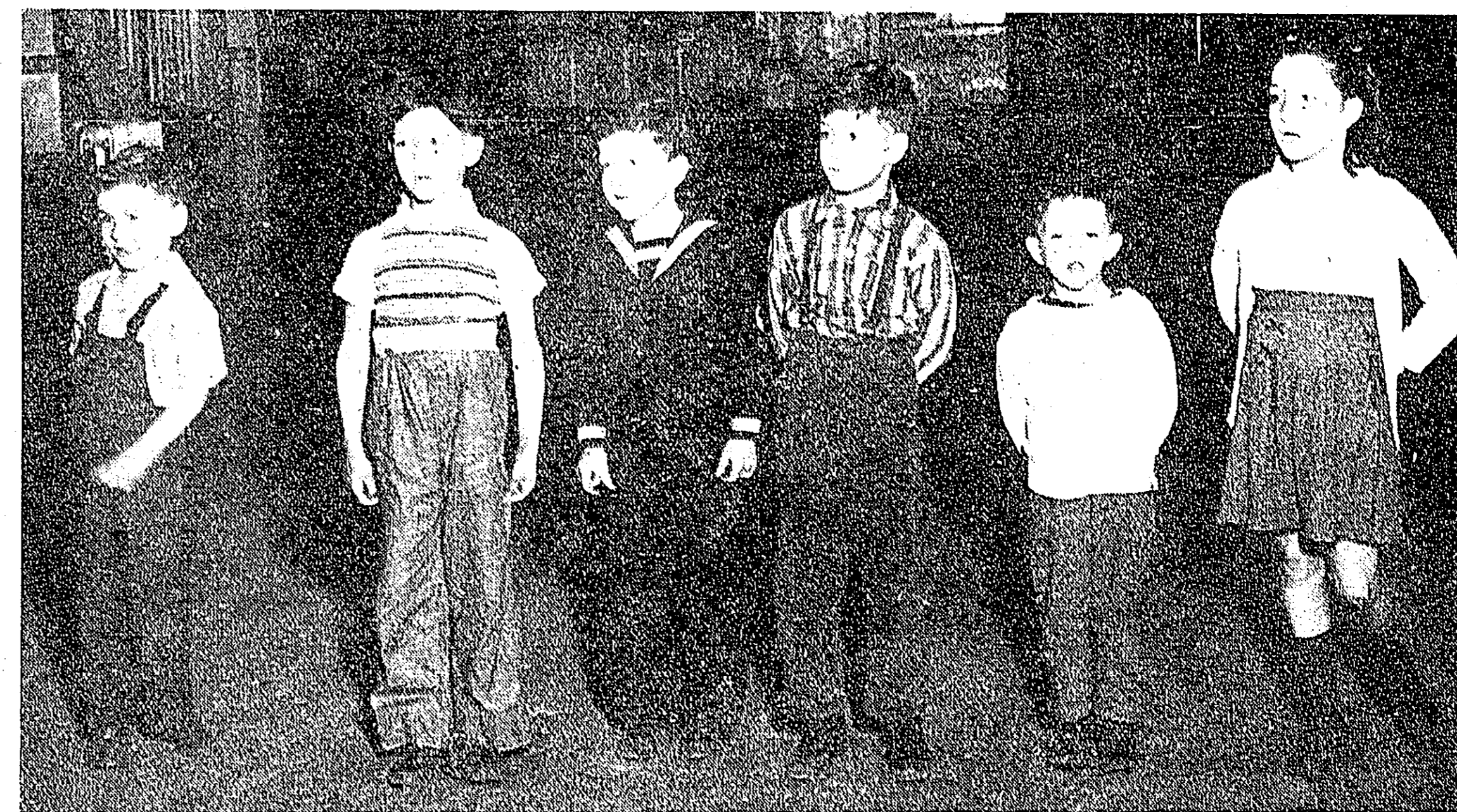
Forty per cent of the money will go to the American Cancer Society for research. Sixty per cent will be spent in the state to aid cancer hospitals and clinics, to help patients unable to pay for treatment and for educational purposes.

The national goal is \$12,000,000. Philip Murray, CIO president, pointed out that CIO membership numbers in the millions and that with CIO support the drive will be a success.

Cancer is America's number 1 killer. One out of every eight Americans dies of cancer.

Thousands of deaths could be prevented each year if people were educated to watch out for danger signals.

## It's Their First Lesson — But Just Watch Them Next Week



These children of UE members are the newest members of the Saturday morning dancing class at union headquarters, taught by Miss Belle Baxter. Left to right, Dickie Brown, John Fraking, Bobbie O'Brien, John D'Amico, Richard Fraking and Carroll Ann Fraking.