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UE Preparing to Win '50 Contract Gains

GE, 'Imitation UE' Delay T-H Hearing

The Taft-Hartley Labor Board hearing on the GE election question dragged on in New York this week, with the General Electric causing endless delays by offering long testimony on minor questions. The "Imitation UE" was taking full advantage of this to prolong its stalling by lengthy cross-examination and evidence of their own.

For example, several days were consumed this week on the company's demand that rate setters and planners be excluded from salaried units, though they were included for years. UE offered one witness, Roy Christoph of the salaried local in Erie. The company called several witnesses, and the Carey lawyers had a field day in calling. It looked as if this one point might take up more than the whole week.

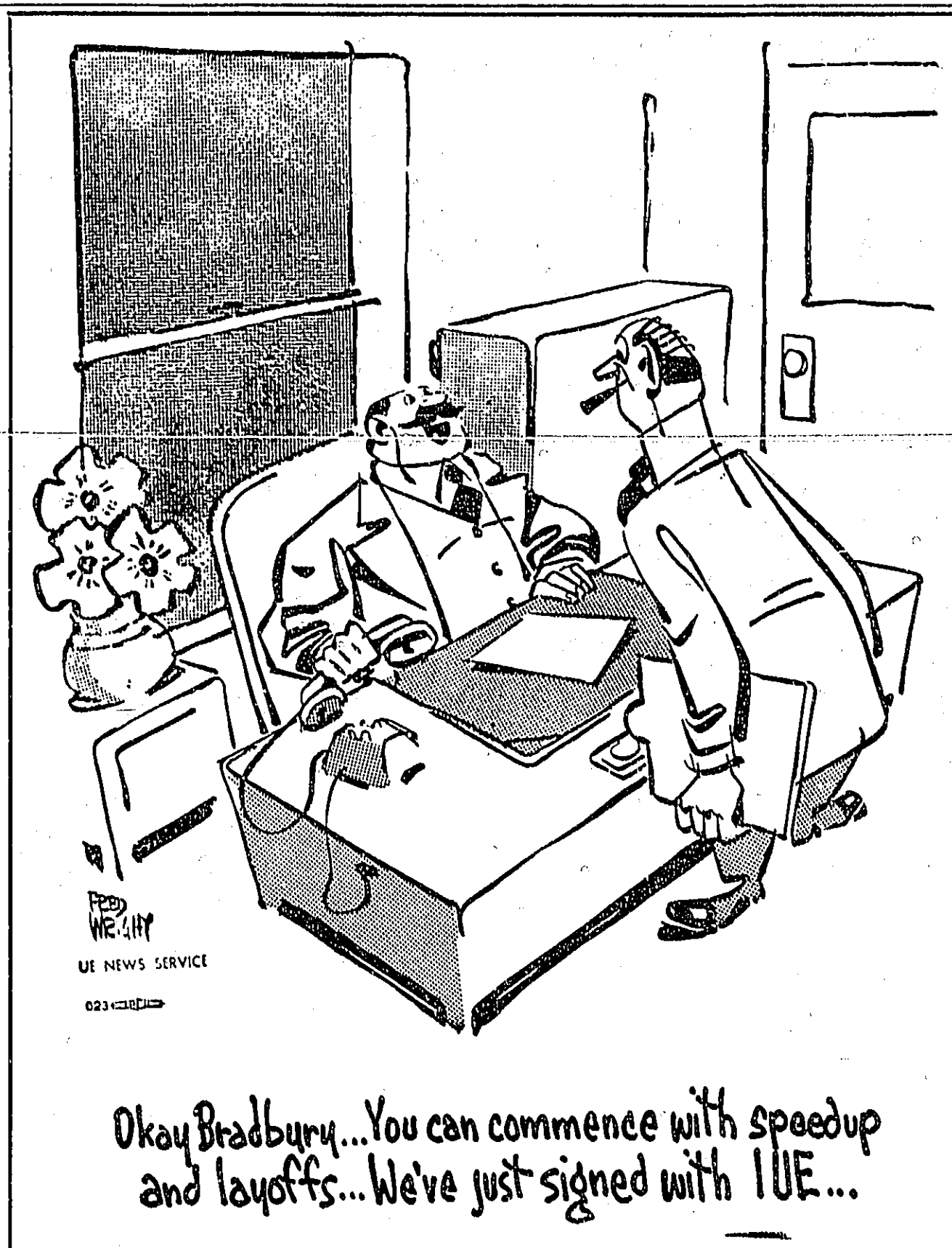
The hearing also brought out the IUE's own admission of the phoniness of its claims to membership. Even on paper, it claims only 16 chartered locals in GE cities. That is what it stated to the board. What these claims mean is shown by the fact that the list of charters includes Schenectady, where Carey membership claims have been exploded repeatedly.

This also confirms the charge previously made by UE that the board would have had to throw out the Carey petition if GE had not come through with its own election request.

Check-off at Erie

Over 90 per cent of the membership of UE Local 506 at the GE plant at Erie, Pa., have signed new UE dues check-off cards like the ones signed in Schenectady.

Business Agent James Kennedy urged the company over 8,100 of use authorizations for the January check-off and others will be added for February. There were about 9,000 names on the former check-off, before GE illegally held up the money to help the "Imitation UE". On its petition for a Taft-Hartley election GE gave the bargaining unit as 9,748.



Carey Boys Don't Worry About Facts

The past week saw more victories for UE over the "Imitation UE," but evidently the Carey boys' propaganda is based on the belief that the truth will not catch up with their statements.

The last "IUE-CIO" News carried a headline saying "UE Stronghold Falls to IUE." It told of a victory for the "Imitation UE" at the Greenfield Tap & Die Corporation in Greenfield, Mass. Then in the Gazette on Wednesday Frank Fiorillo admitted defeat there, and passed it off as a minor loss. He boasted of a great 10 to 1 victory in a Westinghouse plant in Newark, Ohio.

Here are the facts:

The Greenfield plant on Tuesday voted 396 for UE to 332 for the IUE.

The tiny Newark, Ohio, plant

was not organized before. It went IUE by 52 votes to 5 for no union —after the real UE was kept off the ballot by trickery. On Jan. 19 the regional NLRB director in Cleveland wired UE that the election was postponed. At 2:45 p. m. Jan. 20 a notice appeared in the plant that there would be an election at 3:30, the same afternoon.

Of course Fiorilla had nothing to say about this:

After six months on strike, the workers at the Sklar Mfg. Co. in Long Island City last week rejected an "Imitation UE" raid by 155 to 29 in an NLRB vote. They had previously repelled an IAM (Machinists) raid so badly that it did not even go to an election. IUE and IAM are the outfits who would like to take over the Schenectady GE workers.

500 Attend Conference On Program

More than 500 delegates from UE locals throughout the nation, at a UE policy conference in New York City Sunday, voted unanimously to press a broad collective bargaining program in 1950.

"The blitz against UE has failed," Director of Organization James J. Matles reported.

"The maximum damage employers and their company union stooges can inflict on UE in 1950 is to split from our more than 500,000 workers a maximum of 60,000, come hell or high water. And this includes the fifth column of company unionists in our midst for the last nine years."

UE has enrolled more than 12,000 new members in the last three months, he pointed out, and 50,000 members of the Farm Equipment Workers are now in UE.

Local 301 Delegates

Delegates from Local 301 at the policy conference were President William J. Kelly, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Shop Steward Joseph Alois of Building 273, second shift.

The UE delegates drew up a report pointing out the need of winning wage increases to prevent a repetition of the 1929 depression. Certain labor leaders, the report stated, have aided employers in their refusal to give wage increases. These labor leaders have relied on politicians and fact-finding boards, instead of on the strength of their membership, or have announced they would seek no pay increase.

Major Proposals

The program worked out by the UE policy conference will be used by the GE Conference Board and other Conference Boards as a guide in working out their contract demands.

To raise the standard of living (Continued on Page 2)

Carey Contract Claims Strictly Phony

In the series of falsehoods put out by the "Imitation UE," one of the worst yet came out Monday, in a leaflet making a lot of false claims about contract gains of locals under the leadership of Carey supporters.

Most of the "Imitation UE" falsehoods are aimed mainly to draw GE workers off the main track, and those need no answer. Claims which involve contract conditions need to be exposed. We shall go later into more detailed facts about the conditions at Sperry Corporation.

The principal fact is that the benefits at Ford Instrument and Sperry's, now claimed by "IUE", were won under UE leadership.

John Dillon, of Long Island City, came to Schenectady in November 1949 and made the same phony claims about Ford Instrument.

Wage negotiations at Ford Instrument from 1939 to 1948, with UE District 4 participating, brought wage increases regularly. In 1949 the Carey leadership prevented the UE district from taking part and Dillon was in full charge. There was no general increase, though the company's profits were at a peak. Dillon just did not press for a raise.

The nine paid holidays about which Dillon boasts were negotiated in 1938 and 1939 by James Lustig, UE District 4 representative, and a Local 425 committee years before Dillon went to work at Ford Instrument.

The pension plan also was in existence years before Dillon worked there. In 1949 District 4 negotiated improvements in the pension plan at Sperry and the same improvements were automatically given at Ford Instrument, as at Vickers and all the plants in the Sperry family. Dillon didn't raise a hand. It was all negotiated for him.

Dillon had nothing to do with the insurance plan at Ford Instrument. But it stands with the employees having to pay 50 per cent of the cost, while in the rest of District 4 the District 4 plan is operating in 63 companies. There the companies pay the whole cost but union and company administer the plan jointly.

Jandreau Protests To GE on Leaflets

Business Agent Leo Jandreau in a letter to Works Manager Lewis J. Male this week protested against the management's allowing the "Imitation UE" to distribute last Friday a leaflet that was "strictly a political smear."

Jandreau charged that the leaflet, red-baiting the leadership of 301, has the same aim as slanders against UE "peddled by those friends of Mr. L. R. Boulware, ex-Congressman Charles Kersten and J. Parnell Thomas" and expressed also by GE President Charles E. Wilson.

"The aim is to draw the GE workers off into discussions of the red-herring and away from the serious issues that are facing them," Jandreau stated, "the company's attempted downgrading and wage-cutting, speed-up, layoffs, violation of seniority, blocking of grievance settlement and contract termination April 1."

In a speech in 1947, Jandreau recalled, GE's president attacked union leaders as "left wing parasites."

In the letter to Male, Jandreau pointed out that A. C. Stevens, the previous day, said he was familiar with the contents of the leaflet and considered it "fit for distribution."

Management has stated it would permit the Carey outfit to distribute only "organizational," not political leaflets.

"This leaflet can in no way be considered organizational or as 'organizing literature,'" Jandreau declared.

Jandreau also said one of the aims of the leaflet was "to separate one group of workers on the basis of nationality, by writing part of the leaflet in a foreign tongue."

Another Example Of Gazette's Bias

In a story Wednesday the Gazette again distorted the news to try to help the "Imitation UE."

The Gazette untruthfully reported that Federal Judge Stephen W. Brennan had ruled the Schenectady IUE group could keep "its name, numerals and initials."

The judge made no ruling at all on those subjects. All he did was decide that the case should be sent to a state court, instead of being heard in federal court.



Kelly and Mastriani Speak at Pittsburgh

301 President William J. Kelly and Executive Board Member William Mastriani addressed a meeting of 1,500 Westinghouse workers, members of UE Local 601, at Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 15.

Brother Kelly reported on Local 301 handing in the 10,613 new check-off cards and other Schenectady developments. He found that the Pittsburgh workers had not swallowed the "Imitation UE" propaganda about Carey support in Schenectady.

Brother Mastriani described the fight in the Turbine Division against speed-up and rate cuts. UE leaders reported that at the start of the Carey campaign the IUE was "pretty strong" at Pittsburgh Westinghouse but that it was losing strength every day. They said that more than 60 per cent of the workers are now supporting UE.

As Pittsburgh is the national headquarters of the Steelworkers, the Westinghouse workers have been under special pressure by the CIO.

Lynn UE Members Urge T-H Election

Newspaper stories, constantly playing up the claims of the "Imitation UE", keep spreading the propaganda that Lynn GE workers are lined up with Carey.

But 1,000 UE members turned out for the Local 201 membership meeting Jan. 8 at Lynn and voted unanimously to call on the GE and the National Labor (T-H) Board for an immediate election at GE plants. That's how confident the UE supporters at Lynn are that the Carey stooge outfit can be licked thoroughly and quickly.

UE Adopts Program For 1950 Contracts

(Continued from Page 1)

in the electrical and machine industry, the delegates voted to press for:

Raising wages and salaries out of the enormous profits and reserves of the corporation.

A shorter work-week with no reduction in pay. Wiping out discrimination in women's rates.

Special effort to raise the rates of the skilled trades.

Establishment of the same job rates regardless of the geographic location of plants.

Linking the wage campaign to the fight against spreading speed-up and growing unemployment.

Complete insurance protection, paid for by the company alone.

Improving Federal Old Age Security benefits, and improving company pension plans.

Extension of paid holidays without strings, and increased vacations at lower seniority levels.

Seniority Clauses

The program emphasized the need of strengthening seniority clauses, and of being on guard against seniority evasions for race, color, creed, political belief marital status or age.

Other recommendations include: Seniority clauses should provide for accumulation of seniority on layoff as long as there are any laid-off workers. By this protection employers will be blocked from dumping women over 25, men over 40 or from wiping the Negro workers out of the industry to get "fresh blood."

Overtime Work

No layoff should be permitted while overtime work is available. A problem which should be left to the members of each shop to determine is whether to enter into work-sharing to avoid layoffs over prolonged periods. Contract clauses should be drafted to prevent the companies from evading the seniority principle through loose temporary layoff provisions and through establishment of small seniority groupings.

Stronger grievance machinery. Establishing the union shop, to the extent permitted under Taft-Hartley.

"Our recent experience has shown the dangers of relying on the employer for dues collection or on the law and politicians for protection of the union," the report stated. "We should aim to secure union-shop provisions in our contracts and in addition consider seriously the collection of dues through our shop steward system."

Turbine Stewards To Meet Tuesday

All Turbine Division shop stewards have been called to a special meeting next Tuesday to hear a report on the series of grievance meetings of their special committee with Works Manager Lewis J. Male.

The committee concluded these meetings last week. A large number of grievances, most of which developed in connection with the move to the new building, were discussed. Several of the most serious remain deadlocked.

On the cuts in rates on boring mills and drill presses, the company has not yet brought out jobs with piece work prices based on the reduced rates. The Turbine membership has adopted a program calling for immediate action if the company tries to apply such prices.

With respect to the timing of methods men on the carboly speed-up (reported last week) Male said the company would not use piece prices obtained from time studies on methods men, but that he felt it proper to experiment with methods men rather than operators. Several stewards pointed out that this would lead to maximum feeds and speeds, cutting down the operators' earning possibilities. Male said he would go down to Turbine and see what was going on.

The meeting Tuesday will be at 1 p.m. for second shift stewards and at 7:30 p.m. for first and third shift stewards.

Bldg. 69 Committee At Session With Male

Business Agent Leo Jandreau and a committee from Building 69 were in session Wednesday with Works Manager Lewis J. Male, as this week's EU News went to press, over conditions in the building that led to several work stoppages recently.

Milling machine operators were involved in a stoppage Tuesday of last week. A stoppage occurred the next day and continued Thursday of last week, involving the magnetic switch group and the paint line. Another stoppage took place Tuesday of the present week.

Grievances include a lay-off in violation of the contract, refusal to establish an adequate price on a punch press operation, refusal to establish piece work prices on a job now being paid on a day work basis; short orders which have resulted in workers not making their regular earnings.

That Human Touch!

The General Electric Company won't let John Roginski, Building 73, work 12 days past his scheduled retirement Feb. 1 so that he can achieve his ambition of qualifying for the GE Quarter Century Club.

When Brother Roginski was notified that he must retire Feb. 1 because of just reaching the age of 65 he asked his foreman to see if he couldn't round out his full 25 years—a little matter of 12 days. Brother Roginski tried unsuccessfully on his own and then asked the union to take up the matter.

Recently the union was told that Works Manager Lewis J. Male had ruled that GE won't extend Roginski's service the 12 days.

Kelly Sends Wire To Congressmen

President William J. Kelly of Local 301 last week sent a telegram to Representatives Bernard W. Kearney and William T. Byrne at Washington urging them to vote and work against repeal of the Twenty-One Day Rule applied to the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives.

"Repeal of the Twenty-One Day Rule," he pointed out, "would mean undemocratic hotlining of legislation and would be a vote against civil rights legislation."

The House voted last Friday to keep the Twenty-One Day Rule. But this week Speaker Rayburn, Texas Democrat, pigeon-holed the chief bill on Civil Rights, the bill to establish a Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Dropping T-H Repeal Spurs Drive on Labor

The Democratic leaders in Congress and the national CIO leaders gave up the fight to repeal Taft-Hartley in 1950 even before the 1950 session started. So the pro-Taft-Hartley crowd has taken the offensive against labor in a double-barreled attack.

They have demanded that Taft-Hartley be used once more against the United Mine Workers.

They have introduced legislation to invoke the anti-trust laws against labor unions. Under the proposed legislation union activities would become a conspiracy.

As UE has pointed out repeatedly, Taft-Hartley can be repealed this year if labor unions and "liberals" will make a real fight. Only a small shift of votes in the Senate and House of Representatives is needed.

Facts on Craft Rates and Bargaining

All the many gains that toolmakers and other crafts have achieved at GE in recent years were won through UE Local 301. A demand for correction of inequities in skilled trades' rates will certainly be a major bargaining issue here after the NLRB election is out of the way. Experience has shown that the crafts will need the active support of ALL the workers to win their just demands.

This should be remembered now in view of the attempt by the International Association of Machinists, in the Taft-Hartley board hearing, to split toolmakers away from their fellow-workers and into a separate bargaining unit.

The IAM was organized once before at GE here, but failed miserably. So did all other craft unions.

Look at IAM Leaders!

It is also important to note who is leading the attempted raid by the IAM. Michael Tedesco of Building 17 and Daniel P. Sheehan of Bldg. 273 have been announced as heading the IAM drive.

Tedesco was the one man most directly responsible for damaging the toolmakers' wage fight in the summer of 1948, by a rumor campaign in the shop against the conduct of the fight. He then deliberately split the movement by starting a dual union drive for the IAM while holding office as an Executive Board member of 301. He resigned from the board and the union after unsuccessful efforts had been made to get him to meet with the board and discuss the reports about his shop activities.

Sheehan was fired as labor relations man by the American Locomotive Company after Steel Local 2054 had protested his efforts to set up a company union. He had previously been an international representative of the Steel union, and became a company representative one week after the ALCO workers went on strike in 1946. GE hired him in the Turbine division after his firing by ALCO, and kept him despite 301's protest that his high-paid job should have been filled by upgrading a man with service. Later he quit GE, but was rehired in 1949. He is employed as piece work machinist, with an AER of \$1.73, although there are probably men with long service who could fill the job. His right to the job will become an issue any time a laid-off qualified man may claim it.

These are the people who are telling the GE toolmakers to give up their union and follow the craft will o' the wisp.

Sheehan's Record

Edward Noiseaux, 273; Arthur Downs, 73-A; Albert Dorries, 73; Charles Campbell, 73-A; Clara DeNover, 69; Helen Davis, 69; Jack Dunn, 69; Leo Hempstead, 269; William Spellman, 49; and Theodore Blauel, 259.

301 Supports Fight Of Mine Workers

At the direction of the 301 membership meeting last week, President William J. Kelly and Business Agent Leo Jandreau have sent a telegram to President Truman calling on him to order Robert Denham to stop his use of the Taft-Hartley law against the Mine Workers. Also at the direction of the membership they wired to John L. Lewis a pledge of 301's support for the miners' fight.

The miners' pay "is too low for their arduous and dangerous work," the telegram to Truman declared.

"Instead of government influence being used against the miners, it should be used to make the mine owners see the light and meet the union's demands out of the huge profits of the operators."

The telegram also urged the President to press for Taft-Hartley repeal.

Eight Cent Raise

UE has won an eight cents an hour package increase for G. F. Richter workers in New York City.

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