



Hike Would Still Leave 301 Dues Among Lowest

The proposal to increase UE Local 301 dues by 50c a month continued to receive a generally favorable reaction in the shop last week according to reports made at the Monday night executive board meeting.

Many workers have already signed the petitions authorizing the union to take the actions necessary to set the dues rate at \$2.50 a month. The purpose of the boost would be to provide funds for constructing a new-union hall and to build up an adequate defense fund. The extra 50c monthly would be set aside and could be used only for expenses specifically authorized by the membership.

Even if the increase is approved, UE Local 301 dues would be among the lowest monthly fees paid in any union in the country. For example, the CIO steelworkers union at ALCO, right here in Schenectady, has just raised its dues to \$3 a month and its initiation fee to \$5. The UE initiation fee is \$2.

The steelworkers' raise also carried with it an authorization to permit the union's officials to make additional assessments on the membership whenever they felt they were necessary. Under the UE constitution, such involuntary assessments are completely impossible.

The 301 dues raise proposal was prompted by a study of the financ-

Harvester Strike Opens As Negotiations Fail

Close to 30,000 UE members employed by the International Harvester Co. struck last week rather than accept management proposals to wreck their contract.

The Harvester workers in 10 plants throughout the country walked out as soon as their contract expired. They had failed to make any headway in negotiations in which they were demanding a 15c hourly general increase, elimination of geographical differentials and a number of other contract improvements similar to those being asked by UE in the current bargaining with GE.

Instead, the company proposed to cut wages for day and piece workers from 10c to 8c an hour, destroy seniority, institute speed-up and cripple the union's grievance machinery.

ial status of the union which revealed that current dues left a surplus of only 7c a month for each member.

Ballentine Death Underlines Need of Safety Improvement

Last week's tragic death of Irving Ballentine in Building 66 underlines the pressing need for revision of the working conditions clause in the UE-GE contract which is being demanded by the union in current contract modification talks.

Ballentine was crushed to death when a turbine end shield toppled onto him after slipping from the steel horses on which it was mounted. This was the second death in the Welded Products division in less than two years.

The union is demanding a revision of the contract which would make the company responsible for establishing tighter safety protections throughout the plant. In arguing for such a change, UE Local 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau cited the conditions in Welded Products, even before the death of Ballentine provided such a costly example.

But it is not only in Welded Products where safety hazards exist. Union records show that approximately 50 accidents are reported to the local's compensation attorney each month. In other words 600 injuries are reported each year, and this is only a small fraction of the total number of accidents, the vast majority of which are never brought to the attention of UE.

Time after time, shop stewards

and board members have demanded changes in working procedures because of the hazards they present to the men and women in the plant.

Coast Longshoremen Buck Taft-Hartley

SAN FRANCISCO—"The only reason Taft-Hartley hasn't put us out of business is that we wouldn't let it," said a spokesman for the Intl. Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (Independent).

"We showed our solidarity in 1948, when not a single ballot was cast by longshoremen on the entire west coast when the NLRB set up its election on the employers' final offer. But we live in constant fear of our assets being grabbed. We have \$4 million in suits against us now under Taft-Hartley provisions.

"There has so far been no real concerted fight for repeal—only lip service which Congress has ignored. If all labor will really get together on this issue, we can get the act repealed."



WHAT MINERS THINK OF TAFT-HARTLEY—This famous shot symbolizes labor's contempt for the Taft-Hartley act. These striking miners in 1949 showed exactly how they felt when Pres. John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers was convicted of contempt for defying a T-H back-to-work injunction. The union was fined \$1,400,000, Lewis, \$20,000.

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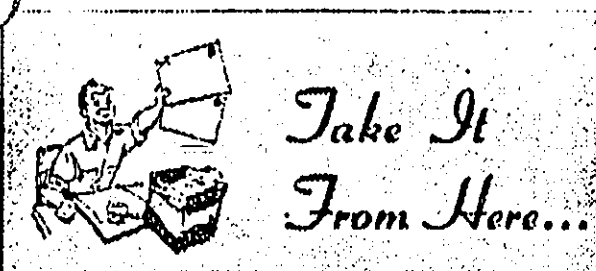
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, September 5, 1952



Washington, Ind.—UE Local 818 has won a 21c hourly package increase in a new two-year contract with the Corcoran Division of the McCord Corp. The new package includes immediate wage increases ranging from 11c to 24c an hour, further boosts on March 1, and cost of living increases throughout the life of the pact.

Cleveland—The Republic Steel Corp. last week fired President Robert Washburn of Local 2265, CIO United Steelworkers, for leading a four-day anti-speedup strike.

Warren, Pa.—A 12c package wage increase has been won by UE Local 633 as a result of successful negotiations with the Penn Furnace and Iron Co. The increase was included in a new 11-month contract, with a wage reopener on Jan. 1.

Roselle Park, N. J.—An agreement providing a 10c hourly wage increase for employees of the A. & M. Karagheusian carpet factory here was announced last week by the CIO textile workers. The accord followed the outlines of the settlements reached to end the 11-week carpet strike in Amsterdam.

Chicago—A vote of 111 to 59 crushed an IUE-CIO raid at the General Laminated plant. The victor in the NLRB ballot was UE Local 1119.

Pittsburgh—New contracts with the CIO steelworkers have been signed by the U. S. Steel and Crucible Steel companies. The pacts cover 170,000 and 15,000 workers respectively.

Sheboygan, Wis.—A three-week strike of UE Local 204F ended in victory last week when the Haysen Manufacturing Co. agreed to a new contract providing a 6c hourly general increase, a 3c hourly insurance plan and a cost of living increase to be added to paychecks in six months.

Pittsburgh—The CIO steelworkers have awarded President Philip Murray a \$15,000 "cost of living" wage increase. Murray's new salary will be \$40,000 a year.

COOL PRIZE. Dolores Lombardi of the union office staff, and Assistant Business Agent Serafin Pita make an admiring inspection of the \$400 refrigerator-deep freeze combination, which heads the list of valuable prizes to be awarded to holders of tickets to the U.E. Local 301 Field Day on Sept. 28.



Hikes for Skilled and Women Workers Key Contract Issues

UE-GE negotiations moved toward their decisive stage this week as union negotiators completed their presentation of 35 proposed contract changes. These proposals had been adopted by UE-GE locals throughout the country prior to the opening of national bargaining talks in New York City.

Several points were stressed during the past week. Among them were the demands for special wage increases to end inequities in skilled workers' rates and to kill off once and for all the system of paying women workers less money than men for similar work. The union made it clear that it felt that a breakthrough on these two points was vitally important to every GE worker.

The proposals on skilled and women workers were key parts of the UE economic proposals. These proposals include a demand for a 15c hourly general wage increase. Thorough discussion of this demand was on the bargaining agenda for late this week.

Another item under discussion was the union's demands for improvement in the holiday clauses of the contract. This discussion was especially significant because two major holidays in the coming year fall on weekends, and under the present contract many workers would lose time off or holiday pay for these days.

The question of improving the present pension system was also on the bargaining table. The company is seeking to prolong the present \$125 monthly payments, including social security, through 1955. But the union has stated that it would have no part of this idea and it would stick to its demand for a new setup under which the pensioners would receive \$100 a month plus social security.

Big 1952 Field Day Plan To Provide Fun for All

A program for the UE Local 301 Field Day which includes athletic events, professional entertainment, a Little League baseball game and special attractions for children was drawn up this week by the activities committee. The big program is to be held on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Columbian Park on Dunsmville Road.

The schedule of events is being planned to provide plenty of fun and excitement for everyone. The athletic events will range from softball games to boxing bouts and wrestling events. In addition, a dozen concessions at which carnival games will be available and refreshments will be sold, have been arranged.

All of this, plus the big list of 25 prizes worth close to \$2,000, will be available to purchasers of field day tickets now being sold throughout the works. They are priced at three for 50c to make it possible for everyone to come.

Set Up Field Day Prize Display at Gas Station

A big display of the \$400 refrigerator-deep freeze combination and the 24 other valuable prizes to be awarded to holders of tickets to the UE Local 301 Field Day will be set up early next week at the Gulf Service Station at Erie and Liberty, right across the street from the union hall.

Among the prizes open to public inspection at the gas station will be the \$280 automatic washing machine, the \$175 electric cylinder iron and the \$162 17-inch table model TV set, all of which will be given away to purchasers of the tickets.

Talks Report Monday

A complete report on the current contract negotiations in New York City will highlight the regular monthly membership meeting of UE Local 301, which will be held on Monday.

The meeting will be in two sessions, with the second shift gathering in union hall at 1:00 p.m., and the first and third shifts meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Local Outlines Wide Program Of Education on Vote Issues

An extensive program to inform all UE Local 301 members on the candidates and issues in the November elections for national, state and local officers will be instituted in the next few weeks. Putting of the plan into operation was approved at last week's executive board meeting.

Under the plan, the union would draw up a program of issues to be presented to each candidate in the Capital District. The candidates would be asked to give their views

on the issues. These opinions could then be compared with both the UE position and the candidates' voting records.

The effectiveness of union political action has already been demonstrated in New York State during the recent primaries when, largely due to the efforts of labor in Binghamton, Assemblyman Orlo Brees, co-author of the Hughes-Brees law, which deprives thousands of workers of unemployment insurance benefits, was defeated in his attempt to gain renomination on the Republican ticket.

UE Local 301 conducted a major campaign against Hughes-Brees when it was under discussion in Albany. Included in this campaign was a visit to State Senator Thomas Campbell who promised to oppose sections of the vicious measure. However, he later reneged completely on his promises. Despite his anti-labor record, Campbell is now endorsed for reelection by both the Republicans and Democrats.

UE LOCAL 301
JOINT MEETING
Members & Stewards

2nd SHIFT
Monday, Sept. 8, 1952
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, Sept. 8, 1952
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall
Erie Blvd. & Liberty St.

ON THE JOB

Bldg. 15: On job 966976-1, operator A. Maretti spent eight hours to do 100 pieces. This job involves four operations, all calling for working with close tolerances and an overall check of all dimensions. It has always been a special job under an agreement with top supervision. The union therefore demands that the operator be paid extra work as has been the past practice on this type of job.

Bldg. 17: The present index piece work tables governing the work of a group of punch press operators were established more than 25 years ago. The practice for many years has been to permit operators to work at from 25% to 50% above the speeds indicated on the planning cards. However, recently supervision ordered strict adherence to called for speeds. As a result the operators have suffered a sharp loss in earnings. The union demands an upward revision of the index piece work prices at correct speeds to correct this condition.

Bldg. 46: E. Miner was issued a repair yoke job and supervision now refuses to pay for this job or any other repair jobs which are returned with material correction notices. In this case the operator took eight hours to do the job. In the past such repair jobs were always paid without question and the union believes that supervision is now trying to introduce a departure in repair job payment procedure. It demands that eight

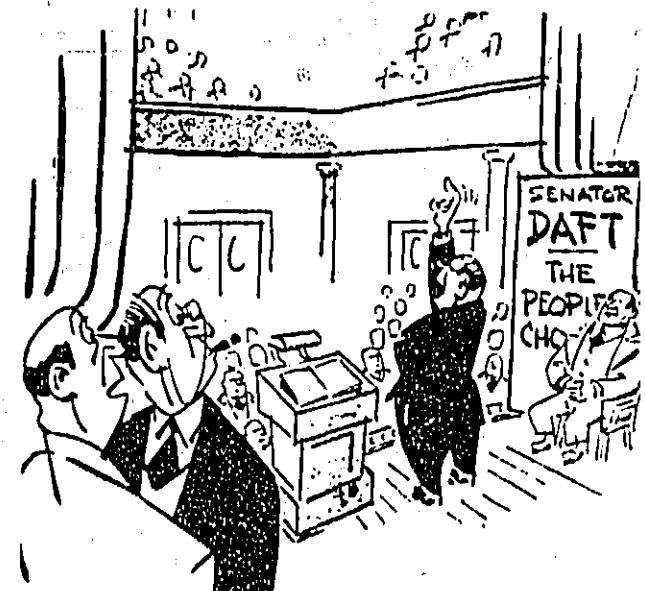
hours be paid for this work and that management adhere to past practice on all repair jobs.

H. Pirelli was hired as an experienced B assembler two steps below the job rate in April. Three months later he was downgraded to C classification, resulting in a pay rate cut from \$1.76 to \$1.65 an hour. The union demands restoration of the B classification.

Bldg. 49: E. Cobart is classified as an A milling machine and hydrotel operator with an A.E.R. of \$1.93. His machine has been idled for two weeks for repairs. Foreman Boles offered him the choice of working at a \$1.65 grinding or drill press job or going home. The union demands that such unfair treatment of this worker be stopped and he be given the chance to make the same earnings as he has been receiving on his regular job.

H. Perro is classified as a Bulvard vertical boring mill operator with a job rate of \$1.87 $\frac{1}{2}$. The job has been changed over to piece work but supervision is willing to pay only two steps above the day rate. The union demands payment three steps over day work rate in accordance with normal practice.

Bldg. 52: Horatio Decker is a 61-year-old worker with 38 years of service. Recently he has been the victim of constantly discriminatory actions on the part of Foreman Keller. The union demands that supervision step in and end these practices so that Decker can receive normal consideration dur-



The Senator is sure to swing the Capital District. We don't know to what party.

Cable Collection Tops \$1,300 Mark

UE Local 301 financial aid to the General Cable strikers mounted to over \$1,300 this week as the Rome walkout entered its fourth month.

Shop collections for the strikers reached a total of \$1,131, while executive board contributions have amounted to \$200.

More than 1,300 members of UE Local 331 were forced to strike the General Cable plant in Rome on June 1 to prevent the company from destroying union protections almost completely.

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.

ing his few remaining working years.

Bldg. 66: The group of crane followers under Foreman Bleecker is protesting the unequal distribution of lost time. For example, two men have lost two weeks each while three others have lost no time. The union demands an end to this discrimination.

Groups working under Foreman Cook and Howek do not feel that the lost time is being distributed on an equitable basis. They particularly protest the fact that much work usually done in 66 is being transferred to Bldg. 52, resulting in an unfair amount of lost time in 66. The union demands an investigation and correction of this situation.

Bldg. 68: As a result of a previous complaint, a porter was hired to service the press line group. However, now that porter has been assigned to work in the machine shop restoring the original situ-

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UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (IUE) Local 301

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UE Wins Big Hikes From GE in Canada

Retroactive wage increases of up to 19c an hour have been won by UE Local 524 from the Canadian General Electric Co.

The increases were brought about by the establishment of an entirely new rate scale for the close to 2,500 UE-organized workers in Canadian GE plants. They were retroactive to April 14 on all of the 424 different jobs they effect.

In another important breakthrough, UE won pace-setting wage increases in the radio-television field at the Capehart-Farnsworth plant in Fort Wayne. A new agreement between UE Local 916 and management provides a 9c general wage increase, plus many additional boosts to correct inequities. The union also succeeded in defeating all company attempts to weaken seniority and security provisions of the contract.

The Capehart-Farnsworth negotiations victory came on the heels of UE's overwhelming defeat of raid attempts by the IUE-CIO and the AFL autoworkers.

The union demands the permanent assignment of a porter to press line.

Bldg. 69: D. Pitucci is classified as an S.U. sensitive drill press operator with a timing rate of .78. After many years on day work, this job was changed over to piece work on May 16. For the first two weeks the operator was able to make about 5% of his A.E.R. Since then he has been unable to make satisfactory earnings. The union demands a proper adjustment.

Bldg. 81: Helen Quirini demands payment for two hours lost in convincing supervision that there was a shortage in her pay. This shortage was finally recognized and paid. Her entire group has frequently received short paychecks. The union demands an immediate correction of this situation which results in constant bickering and wasted time.

Bldg. 269: Vivian Zingoni is being inadequately paid for work on the "clean and dip tube parts" operation. The union demands an adjustment to bring the price of this job in line with prices for similar jobs elsewhere in the works.

Bldg. 273: R. Conrow and C. Fowler, members of a cooperative group of pieceworkers, have not been paid in accordance with past practices. The union demands proper adjustment of their rate retroactive to the 14th week they were on the job.

Knolls: Anthony Arnold is classified as an electroplater specialist with a job rate of \$1.82. Actually he is working as a special solution mixer, a job with a much higher rate. A proper adjustment is demanded.

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Rigged Cost Index Cheats Workers, UE Report Shows

American workers are being cheated out of 27c an hour in wages according to a report issued at the end of last month by the UE national research office.

The union charges contended that this mass pocket picking was made possible by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' so-called cost of living index which hides a large portion of the actual rise in living costs. Prices since 1950 have actually gone up about 25%, but the BLS has shown only a 15% rise.

Under the escalator clause setup prevailing in many industries, the BLS index is used as a gauge to measure wages. The BLS figures have permitted only a 23c hourly rise for workers under the escalator agreements, while an honest index would have allowed a 50c boost.

The BLS index has now reached an all-time high of 193.6, as compared with the base figure of 100 for 1939. However, the UE index shows living costs actually at 285.7, nearly 100 points higher.

The BLS keeps its figure down by giving heavier weight to luxuries, not generally bought by working people, while minimizing average food costs, rent, inexpensive clothing and other items which have gone up faster than the expensive things.

As a result, even the BLS admits that most workers' families are spending a higher percentage of their income on bare necessities and cutting down on medical care, education and recreation. In addition, the working people are deeper in debt now than at any time in recent history.

Delegates Prepare For Cleveland Trip

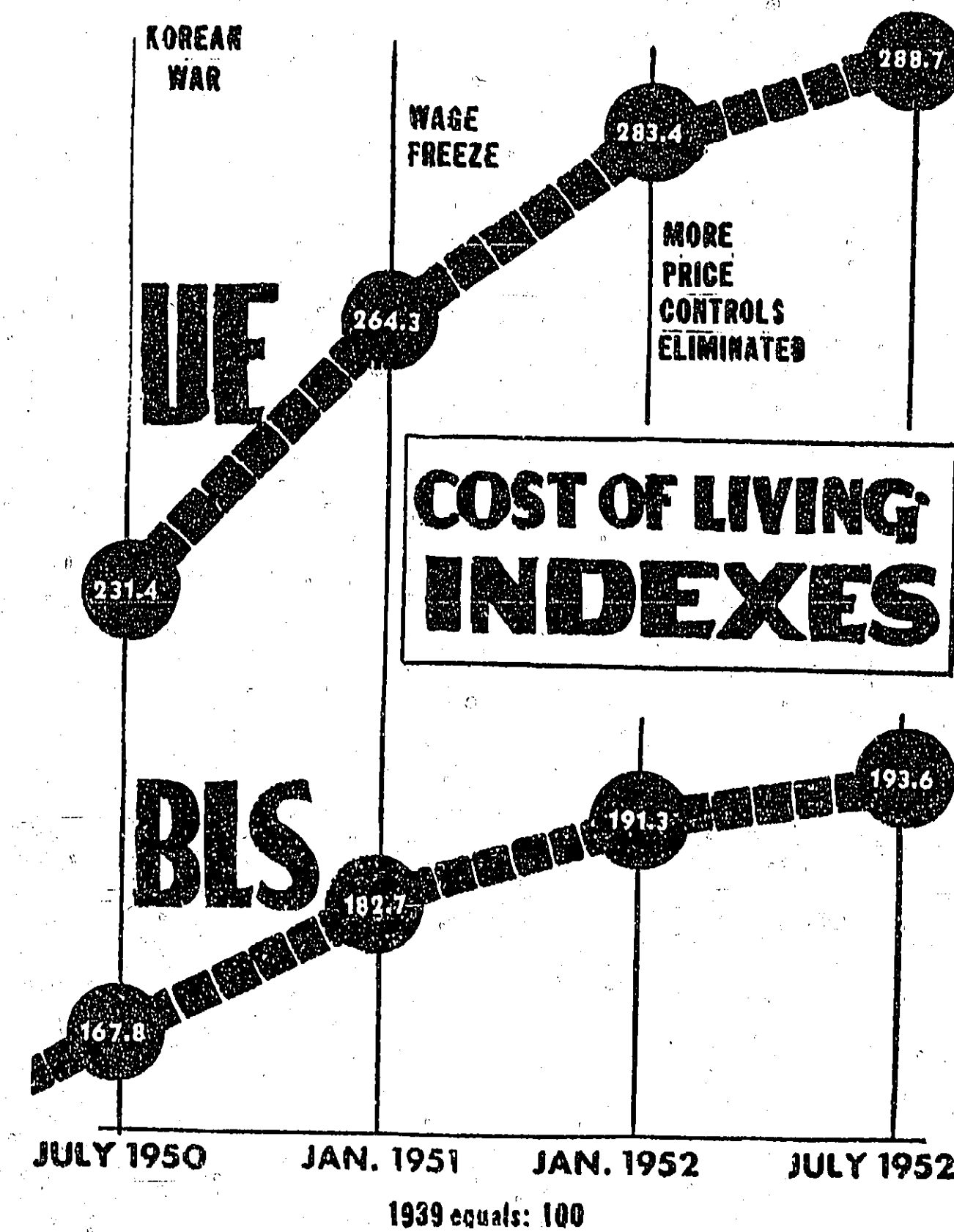
UE Local 301 members will have a final opportunity to instruct its delegation to the union's national convention at the Monday membership meeting.

The 10-person delegation will go to Cleveland for the union's 17th annual get-together, which is scheduled to begin on Monday, Sept. 15, and run through the following Friday.

The delegates, who were selected at the July membership meeting, include James Cognetta, Frank D'Amico, Julius Emspak, Don Gauvreau, Lawrence Gebo, Leo Jandreau, William Mastriani, Arthur Owens, Helen Quirini, and William Stewart. Rossiter Light-hall is the alternate.

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COSTLY GAP. The graph below shows the gap between the cost of living increase as reported by the Bureau of Labor statistics and the real increase as measured by the UE. The union maintains that this gap costs the workers 27c an hour in wage increases.



Harvester Strikers Completely United

Thirty thousand employees of the world's largest farm equipment corporation, International Harvester, completed the second week of their strike against management efforts to cut wages from 10c to 80c an hour and to destroy almost all union protections.

The strike was called on Aug. 21 after a nearly unanimous vote of the UE membership in Harvester. The strike and complete unity of the workers was an answer to one of the most outrageous set of contract proposals ever made by big business to a union.

These proposals would have destroyed seniority provisions, crippled the union grievance machinery, and cut the earnings of pieceworkers by up to 80c an hour and of day workers by up to 60c.

The union, for its part, has demanded a 15c hourly wage increase and other pact improvements very much like those being asked of GE by UE negotiators.

An interesting aspect of the strike is the basis for unity existing between the UE members and the 4,000 members of the CIO United Autoworkers who are on strike at the Harvester Melrose Park plant in Chicago. These workers walked out in protest against management assaults on their seniority.

UE Foils Un-Americans

A demonstration of several hundred UE members in Chicago Tuesday broke up a smear hearing being conducted by the House un-American committee. The main purpose of the hearing was an attempt to discredit UE leadership in the current International Harvester strike.

Plan Red Cross Blood Survey To Widen Donation Program

A complete survey of the Schenectady works aimed at bringing as many people into the Red Cross blood plan as possible will be undertaken within the next two weeks.

The survey will be made by approaching all workers and asking them to sign cards indicating willingness to contribute blood. Under the plan, all those participating will be entitled to receive blood plasma free in any hospital in the area.

The blood is collected by a Red Cross bloodmobile which makes almost weekly stops at the works.

Westinghouse Pact Offer Copies GE's

Westinghouse, following closely the pattern set by GE, has offered a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 13c wage increase tied to a set of anti-union clauses which would weaken the contract on grievances, seniority and stop-

Negro-White Unity Helps Harvester Strikers

One of the most important reasons for the strength of the 30,000 International Harvester employees now on strike is the complete unity between white workers and the many Negro workers.

This unity has been built up by UE policies of fighting for the rights of Negro workers against company efforts to keep them in low-paying, menial jobs. It is particularly important because one of the largest Harvester plants is in Louisville, Ky., where the southern tradition of discrimination and oppression of Negroes is strong.

However, the more than 4,000 UE members in Louisville have refused to bow in anyway to company efforts to split them on the basis of color. They have not only fought hard for equal rights in the shop, but also have conducted a huge campaign in the community to educate people to the dangers of Jim Crow.

This campaign has emphasized that discrimination is the weapon of the corporations to keep the wages of all workers low. As a result, in the South where discrimination is at its worst, the wages are the lowest.

This is particularly important for GE workers right now because of the company's efforts to take advantage of discrimination by "running away" to the South. This has resulted in large scale layoffs in many northern GE plants.