

Building Trades Committeemen Work Out New Bargaining Program



Representing building trades at the Schenectady GE plant, this group of committeemen met in the Local 301 Board Room to decide on details of the bargaining action program of wage adjustments and other benefits for the building trades craftsmen. The program, which was outlined in last week's EU News, will be submitted soon to a special meeting of all building trades members at the plant.

Left to right: Benjamin Ford, Building 13 F, electricians;

Charles Danes, 107, millwrights and riggers; John Keeler, 107, ironworkers; Fabien Gee, 107, painters; Albert Spears, 107, masons and roofers; E. L. Hill, 107, carpenters; George Diemer, 13 F, electricians Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent; Charles Nitsche, 52, tinsmiths; Philip F. Bubb, ironworkers; Henry Ausfeld, 269, steamfitters, (only top of head showing). William Templeton 11, electricians; Charles Ferris, 63, electricians, and David Rollo, 13 F, electricians.

Famous G-E Efficiency Breaks Down on Dues

A number of double dues deductions will be occurring shortly because of the slowness of the GE payroll department in keeping up with the transfers in the closing of Refrigeration.

With transfers heavy in July and August, there have been a number of cases where no dues were checked off in both August and September. This means there will be double check-offs in such cases in both October and November. This situation has been called to the attention of the company, which is entirely responsible for the back-log developing.

White Collar Workers Sue for Overtime Pay

A test case filed by UE General Counsel David Scribner for 11 members of Local 201, at Lynn Mass., challenges the GE policy of excluding white collar workers from overtime pay due under the Wage-Hour Law.

If the group of clerks, study men, planning men and tool planners who brought the law suit are successful in recovering the \$11,848 they seek, thousands of other white collar workers may be able to collect damages of over \$1,000,000 from GE.

The suit was filed in U. S. District Court in Boston.

Check Your Pay Rate In Any Job Transfer

Workers transferred from one job to another will do well to check with their committeeman to make sure they are given the right rate. Under the union contract, the new rate on transfer is better than the rate for a newly-hired employee on the same job. Your committeeman has the contract and can tell you what your rate should be.

There have been frequent cases of transferred employees receiving less than the correct rate, through a foreman's error. This has been corrected promptly upon being called to the management's attention.

Jandreau to Speak

Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, will speak on "The Church and the Economic World" at a community service of the First Baptist Church at Scotia at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22.

Attention, Girls!

A woman's black, seal coat left at Local 301 Hall during the strike is still unclaimed there. If the owner can identify it, she can obtain it by calling at the hall.

Union Takes Local GE Cases To Court

(Continued from Page 1)

six years, \$110.80, and Frank Chiaro, assembler, five years, \$85.20.

Local 301 members involved in the super-seniority test are R. J. Passmore, Charles Briggs, William Young, H. J. Moeller and G. Vines.

Since the U. S. Supreme Court decision against super-seniority, GE has changed its policy of violating the UE contract by such layoffs and transfers, but it has refused to make up financial losses to employees injured by the policy. The company flatly refused to have the matter arbitrated.

Brother Passmore, with 19 years seniority, was demoted from p. w. welder at \$1.90 an hour to Class A assembler at 1.23½.

Brother Briggs, engraver with 30 years seniority, was dropped from \$1.80 to become a coil winder at 82 cents, and later at \$1.01½.

Brother Young, horizontal milling machine operator with six years seniority, was dropped from \$1.90 to helper on a shearing job at \$1.06½.

Brother Moeller, p. w. welder, with nine years seniority, was dropped from \$1.60 to become a d. w. welder at \$1.28½.

Brother Vines, gear cutter, was dropped from \$1.43 to milling machine operator at \$1.10. He also lost vacation pay by transfer.

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Special Meeting Tonight on PAC



Plans for an all-out drive to get CIO members and their families registered to vote in the November election were made last week by the Schenectady County CIO-PAC Advisory Committee at a meeting in 301 hall. The committee also discussed recommendations on candidates. Seated above, his back to the camera, is Ernest Herman, of Steel Local 2054, chairman of the committee. The others, left to right,

around the table, are Andrew Peterson, 301 president; William Goblet 2054; Neil Dandareau, president, Local 3180, USA; Willard Kuschel, 301; Business Agent Leo Jandreau; Alton Petteys, secretary-treasurer of Transport Workers' Local 159; Lewis Benedict, 159 president; Robert Northrup, executive secretary of Capital District Industrial Union Council; Dewey Brashear, 301; John Clune, 301; Thomas Fyvie, 2054 secretary-treasurer; and Rudy Ellis of 301. Their recommendations will be placed before Local 301 tonight.

Local 301 Approves Convention Actions

Statements of wage policy and foreign policy adopted by the national UE convention were unanimously approved by the combined membership and committeemen's meeting of Local 301, Sept. 17.

The convention resolution on UE unity and democracy, upholding the right of any member to hold office without regard to "craft, age, sex, nationality, race, creed or political belief," was overwhelmingly approved also, with only nine dissenting votes.

Leo Jandreau, who had been chairman of the convention resolutions com-

(Continued on Page 4)

\$1,000 for Canadian Strikers

A contribution of \$1,000 for the strike fund of the Canadian UE district was voted by the general membership meeting of Local 301 Sept. 17.

Workers at the GE plants at Peterboro and at Toronto are on strike. With steel and auto unions out too, the situation in Canada today is like the period of the great CIO strikes last winter in the United States.

On City Committee

The Executive Board recently named Andrew Peterson, president, to represent Local 301 on the Schenectady Sesqui-Centennial Committee.

The 105th anniversary of the chartering of the city will be Mar. 26, 1948.

Union Will Decide On Endorsements

The position to be taken by Local 301 on the various candidates in the November election will be decided at the special membership meeting, 7:30 p.m. tonight (Thursday), following extensive discussions in the Schenectady County CIO-PAC Advisory Committee. The committee has met with most of the candidates to determine their viewpoint on the matters affecting labor.

Political action, both as to candidates and as to practical steps to insure the registration of the members to vote, will be the main order of business at tonight's meeting.

(Continued on Page 4)

Local 301 Will Continue to be Run By Its Membership—Not by Gazette

This statement by Leo Jandreau, was approved by the Local 301 Executive Board at its Sept. 20 meeting and the Board directed its publication in EU News.

"This union faces a highly-organized campaign by big employers and their political and newspaper spokesmen to break up our unity. The campaign is intended to block our program of real price control, improved standards of living, wages to meet price increases, and political action against the enemies of labor at the polls.

"We must expect this campaign to grow in intensity. Our ability to stand up to it and repel it will determine whether or not we retain and strengthen our ability to be an effective union in defense of our member's welfare.

Newspaper Enemies
"Newspaper publicity has been and will increasingly be a big weapon in such an anti-union campaign. Let's recognize such publicity for what it is—the voice of our enemies.

"In the second of two editorials within a period of 10 days, the Schenectady Gazette has presumed virtually to order this union to reverse the action of its membership meeting and 'ferret out Communists'.

"In an effort to panic some of our members, the Gazette sets itself up even over the Supreme Court of the United States. The Gazette declared the Communists aim to overthrow 'lawful government by force.' The Supreme Court held this was not shown and that a Communist could not be deprived of his citizenship.

Look At Gazette Record
"Think over this Gazette demand carefully. Here is a newspaper which successfully broke up the CIO union of its own editorial workers. From the time that we at GE started to organize, the Gazette, under a thin pretense of neutrality, has consistently played down all news items favorable to this union or the labor movement, and has exaggerated and played up all news items unfavorable to labor and to this union, all items favorable to GE as against the

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union. It has labored to mislead our members and the public on all the vital issues of strikes, wages, prices, etc.

"This is the paper which now presumes to tell us that unions must undertake a witch-hunt for their own continued existence."

"Does any member seriously believe that the Gazette, or any of the big anti-labor daily papers, is interested in preserving our union? Are we to believe that the Gazette is really concerned lest we become weak and be unable to obtain further raises from GE?"

"The mere fact that the Gazette wants us to engage in red-baiting and witch-hunts should be enough to convince us that those ideas are bad, that they would help only GE and the Durns and Kearneys who speak for GE in politics.

"We are asked to suppress the democratic American tradition of freedom of thought, freedom of discussion, on which this union has grown in strength and benefits for its members.

UE Is Target
"The UE is in the forefront of the CIO campaigns to defeat the enemies of the Roosevelt tradition at the polls and to raise wages to meet living costs. Therefore we are subjected to wild attacks in a so-called 'public opinion' built up by an unceasing campaign of newspaper lies. Unfortunately a small group of self-seekers within our ranks have lent themselves to this campaign. They would tear down the model democracy of our membership meetings. They take their differences to the anti-labor press instead of fighting them out within the union.

"The national UE Convention resolution on this question also declared the determination of the membership to defeat control by any group, 'political, religious, fraternal, or any other.'

Newspapers Seek Control
"We are called upon now to defeat specifically an attempt to control us through newspaper publicity and campaigns. The unceasing propaganda about an imaginary 'Communist control'

CIO Convention Reports Deferred Until October

Remaining reports of delegates to the recent State CIO Convention at Lake Placid will be heard at the October membership meeting of Local 301. They were postponed from the Sept. 17 meeting because of a crowded program.

The 301 meeting defeated by a two-to-one vote a motion of John Saccocio, a delegate to the state CIO convention to disapprove the state body's foreign policy resolution which he called "Communist." All the other delegates from Local 301 had voted for this foreign policy resolution which was unanimously recommended by the State CIO Executive Board, representing every international CIO union in New York state. The convention vote itself was overwhelmingly in favor of the resolution.

Fred Pacelli, another delegate, reported on the PAC resolution adopted by the State CIO.

District CIO Board Backs Wallace Stand

The Executive Board of the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, this week sent the following telegram of support to Henry Wallace, forced to resign from the Truman cabinet.

"We are wholeheartedly behind you in your efforts to keep issues of world peace before the people. The policies of our government must be fully discussed in public if they are to represent the best interests of the American people.

"You have always been in the forefront of the struggle for peace and security and we strongly urge you now continue to fight for the foreign policies established by President Roosevelt."

is made to sound fearful because the great majority of people have no idea what is being talked about. This propaganda is nothing but a cover-up for a campaign of disruption and attempted control in the interests of the employers and their allies, the reactionary political machines.

"If we yield to such campaigns, we give up our birthright.

"The attacks on us will grow stronger. If we are to succeed in our duty to ourselves and to our country, we shall have to repel all such attacks without flinching.

"The Board has confidence in the membership, built up in 10 years of struggle. It will do its part to rally the membership to maintain complete control of the union by the membership alone."

Steel Foundry Workers, Bldg. 57, Go Into Huddle on Special Problems



With the close of the heavy vacation season, department groups are resuming meetings to discuss their special problems. The steel foundry group, Bldg. 57, met recently to

take up grievances at the union hall. Above, part of the group in session, with Committeeman John Jablonski at the table, presiding. At his left is Committeeman Robert Amann.

New Grievance Appeals Machinery Set Up; First Committee Session Called for Tomorrow

Any 301 member who has a complaint to make about the handling of a grievance can appeal at any step to a grievance sub-committee set up by the Local 301 Executive Board at the recommendation of Business Agent Leo Jandreau. This new procedure for speedy appeals was voted at the board meeting last Friday.

The board decided the procedure was desirable to protect both the aggrieved member and of the committeeman or other official handling a grievance. The grievance committee will meet every Friday at 4 p. m. to hear appeals, beginning this week.

The board felt that the machinery was important enough to embody in the Local's constitution. It will recommend it to the Constitution Committee. The procedure adopted by the board follows:

Grievance Committee Provided
"A standing sub-committee of the board, to be known as the grievance committee, shall act on all complaints by members as to the handling of a grievance by a committeeman or by the business agent or any of his assistants, and all appeals from the decision of a committeeman or the business agent or any of his assistants on whether or not to press a grievance at each step, up to the works manager level.

"The grievance committee shall consist of five members of the board, including the president, chief steward, recording secretary, and two board

committee or higher body has made its decision.

"A grievance shall be kept open as long as there is an appeal pending respecting it.

Appeals Machinery

"When a member is dissatisfied with his committeeman's handling of a grievance, or failure to handle one, he shall notify the union office, which shall notify the respective committeeman and his board member, and they shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the first committee meeting held after all three have been notified.

"When a member, or committeeman, or board member, is dissatisfied with the handling of a grievance by the business agent or any of his assistants, any one of the three may notify the union office, which shall notify all other parties, and they shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the first meeting after all parties have been notified.

"Grievances shall be referred beyond the local level to the national officers and national management only after specific approval by the Executive Board. Executive Board approval shall likewise be required before a grievance is referred to arbitration. Executive Board decisions in these matters are subject to appeal to the next stewards' council meeting and to the next membership meeting."