

## Look Out, Bernard! Your Record Shows

Representative Bernard W. Kearney's voting record in the 79th Congress makes bad reading for union men and women according to a summary in the national CIO News.

The Republican Congressman, who "represents" Schenectady, voted against the CIO position on seven of 12 issues vital to labor and the people and was listed as not voting on an eighth.

He did fence-straddle in two of his four favorable votes. For instance, he opposed one bad amendment to cripple OPA but voted for another. He voted against the Case bill but later voted to over-ride President Truman's veto of the bill.

Representative Dean P. Taylor, Republican, of Troy, cast nine unfavorable votes and one good one and was listed as not voting on two measures.

Representative William T. Byrne of Albany, Democratic candidate for reelection with ALP endorsement, voted progressively on 10 of the 12 issues and did not vote on the other two.

Kearney was quoted last week as making a red-baiting speech at a clam-bake. His own brand of Americanism is shown clearly in his voting record.

Carroll Gardner will be Democratic and ALP candidate against Kearney in the November election.

## Spears Succeeds Polak on 301 Board



A. J. Spears



John Polak

A. J. Spears, active leader in the strike and one of Local 301's earliest board members, was elected again to the board August 21 at a special meeting of committeemen from the Building and Grounds Section.

Brother Spears succeeds John Polak, who resigned because of a change in his personal plans. Brother Polak also was one of the strike leaders, making a remarkable record for quiet and effective handling of strikers' personal problems as chairman of the welfare committee.

Brother Spears is a first class mason in Bldg. 107. He was a member of the picket committee and manned the picket desk for long periods every day throughout the strike.

He will represent Bldgs. 57, 87, 91, 95, 98 A, B, C and D, 99 A and B, 101, 105 and 107.

## Brashear Elected To Freeport Group

Dewey Brashear, Local 301, was elected to represent the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, on the Schenectady Committee for Justice in Freeport.

The committee was formed to see that justice is carried out in the case of the killing of a Negro soldier and his brother last February by a white policeman at Freeport, L. I.

Assemblyman Hulan Jack will speak at 8 p. m. tonight at Odd Fellows Hall, Albany, at a meeting called by the Albany Committee for Justice in Freeport.

## CIO Aids Toy Strike

At the request of the Warehouse Workers Union, CIO, the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, has asked the H. G. Pfeil Co., 888 Albany St., not to deal with Schranz and Bieber, New York City toy jobbers, during the Warehouse Workers strike against that firm.

The strike was called when the toy company threatened to close down rather than renew a contract.

## National UE Officers Criticize Price Control Board, Truman

(Continued from Page 1)  
really favors price control is revealed as false."

The statement condemned the Decontrol Board for rejecting controls on milk even in the face of a milk shortage.

The UE officials took issue with the Decontrol Board for implying that labor is responsible for price increases:

"But what are the facts? The facts are that labor's fight against inflation and for a living wage is in the interests of the entire nation. But the big business campaign for higher prices and greater profits endangers the welfare of the nation.

"Is it labor or profiteering corporations—particularly the food interests—whose quarterly reports show vast profits as a result of increased prices during the past months?

"The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. realized a net profit of \$18,200,000

for the year ending February 1946. General Foods realized a net profit of \$8,000,000 for the last six months in 1945. Beechnut Packing Co. has made a net profit of \$1,436,000 in 1946. . . .

"In the fight against inflation, American consumers, veterans and organized labor were united in the struggle against the lobbies of business

### GE Promises Price Details on Vouchers

Piece work pay vouchers will have the kind of piece price type-written after the money figure, as quickly as the clerical work can be arranged, the GE management advised the union committee this week. The union had pressed for this.

Standard prices will be shown as "std," special as "spe," and temporary as "tmp."

and finance, who were out to destroy economic stabilization. But Congress obeyed the special interest lobby—not the people. . . .

"When President Truman appointed the Price Decontrol Board, he revealed the reactionary nature of his administration. Not a consumer, labor or veterans' representative was appointed. Instead, the positions went to two bankers and a manufacturer. The results announced were thus pre-ordained.

"The honest and sincere efforts of CIO directed towards restraint in wage demands while supporting price controls are met with rebuff, disdain and slander.

"Under these circumstances, UE-CIO gives assurance that this Union will move ahead to vigorous and unqualified action on political, economic and community fronts, to protect the living standards of our members and the people generally in the face of rising prices."

# Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 33

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

September 5, 1946

## Retirement, Other Issues Pressed in National Action

The national UE office has taken up formally with E. D. Spicer, GE vice-president, the union's protest against the compulsory retirement of men at 65 years of age and women at 60. While the discussions continue on a national level, all cases here of workers ordered to retire against their will are being filed as individual grievances.

The national union also is pressing action on the other three issues involved in all GE plants.

Charges of discrimination have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board over the company's subtraction of the nine weeks of the strike from all employees' service record.

The union is going into court to obtain credit for veterans' time spent in service in figuring vacations.

The company has refused to arbitrate the issue of pay lost as a result of improper transfer under the company's application of the super-seniority policy, which the U. S. Supreme Court has held to have been illegal all the time. The UE is going into court to compel arbitration under the contract.

Sample grievances have been sent by Local 301 to the national office on cases involving compulsory retirement, veterans' vacations, and super-seniority.

## 301 Conditions Will Rule in Waterford

Local 301 will insist that conditions of employment in the new GE plant to be opened at Waterford after January 1 must be the same as in the works here, Business Agent Leo Jandreau declared yesterday.

The new plant will make silicone products, and is actually a transfer of operations out of the Schenectady works. Jandreau said that 301 will be entitled to represent the workers there, because of its being a transfer.

It is expected that a large proportion of the workers in the Waterford plant will be from the works here.

## Shop Disputes Go to Arbitrator As Company Blocks Settlement

Running into the general management determination to block the settlement of grievances, the national UE last week sent to arbitration a series of important Schenectady disputes.

These grievances had gone through the various local steps without result and were taken up at the national level by Business Agent Leo Jandreau and International Representative Joseph Turkowski, meeting with a company committee in New York.

### Union Calendar

Monday, Sept. 9 through Saturday, Sept. 14—National UE convention at Milwaukee, Wis.

Wednesday, Sept. 11 through Saturday, Sept. 14—State Industrial Union Council, CIO, convention at Lake Placid.

Sept. 16—Price Control meeting called by Local 301 committee at Veterans' Rooms, 618 State St.

Sept. 17—Joint membership and committeemen's meeting of Local 301.

Sept. 18—Capital District Industrial Union Council meeting, CIO, at 301 Liberty St.

### Schenectady Taxi Drivers Join CIO

About two-thirds of Schenectady's taxi drivers have joined Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO.

They want \$7 as a minimum daily wage, 40 per cent commission on everything taken in above \$7 a day, five day week, two weeks vacation with pay, union shop, seniority, and other improvements.

The union has filed for a State Labor Relations Board election at the Brown Taxi Co.

### 13th Ward Helpers

Don Siskind, Thirteenth Ward manager for Dominelli, was aided on Primary Day by George Judway, Clara DeNoyer and Ann Daly, all UE; Edward Dell Aquila, USA, and Vincent Dominelli.

The company gave a curt "no" on all the grievances taken up, virtually without discussion.

### Tinsmiths and Machine Fitters

Leading the disputes were the wage grievances over the tinsmiths and the machining fitters.

The company always has followed the policy of refusing to recognize prevailing craft wage rates, so that building tradesmen coming into the plant on a construction job would be receiving higher wages than GE men doing more responsible work. During the war the union was able to win a ten-cent raise for the electricians and steamfitters through lengthy War Labor Board action. As the company had always recognized the tinsmiths as having the same job value, the union has been pressing for the same increase for them. The company has refused to go above a five-cent raise.

While the immediate arbitration will be over the tinsmiths, the same issue in related grievances involves the masons, millwrights, ironworkers, and carpenters.

Also taken to arbitration was the ten-cent raise demand for the machine fitters. In the War Labor Board dispute the company had admitted that this trade was directly related to the electricians. But again they refuse to grant the same increase.

### Switchboard Operators

Another wage dispute sent to arbitration was the demand of the switchboard operators in Building 265 for a merit range spread of ten cents above the job rate of \$1.28½. Before the War Labor Board GE stated that its policy was to

(Continued on Page 4)

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO  
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee  
Dewey Brashear Ray Flanigan  
Milo Lathrop William Mastriani  
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News  
301 Liberty St. - Schenectady, N. Y.  
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

## Urges Union Contract For Hospital Nurses

Members of Local 301 are deeply interested in seeing that the nurses of Ellis Hospital get pay raises, improved working conditions and a CIO union contract, President Andrew Peterson wrote Allen D. Marshall, president of the hospital board.

The recently organized nurses, members of the Schenectady Association of Registered Professional Nurses, United Public Workers, CIO, have asked for \$200 monthly base pay for a 40 hour week, with time and a half for over-time.

They also asked a 10 per cent bonus for the two shifts working nights, eight paid holidays, four weeks vacation and other improvements in working conditions.

The nurses' union criticized a recent statement of Mr. Marshall threatening to pass on to patients all costs of salary increases which may be granted to nurses.

The hospital as yet has not recognized the CIO group as bargaining agent. Management representatives of Ellis Hospital and of other hospitals in the Capital District had a secret meeting last week with the non-union New York State Nurses Association leaders at Troy.

### Remember — Register!

What you get in the way of price control, and a lot of other things affecting your pocketbook, will be decided by whom you elect in November.

To vote in November you must REGISTER.

Make a note now that registration in your home district will be October 4 and 5, 11 and 12.

### TUNE IN

Remember, the Local 301 radio program is broadcast every Monday at 7:15 p.m. over Station WSNY.

## 301 Delegates Set to Leave for Milwaukee For National UE Convention Opening Monday



Wm. Mastriani Andrew Peterson

Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, outstanding champion of labor and progressive measures at the Capitol, will be a principal speaker at the national UE



Marshall White



Leo Jandreau

convention which will open Monday at Milwaukee, Wis.

The convention is the first in two years because of war-time travel restrictions. Local 301 will be represented by Andrew Peterson, president; Leo Jandreau, business agent; William Mastriani, chief shop steward; Marshall White, treasurer, and Edward Wallingford, former president. There will be a total of more than 800 delegates.

In a pre-convention statement, Julius Emspak, national secretary-treasurer, reported that the union now has 1,375 plants under contract, the largest number in its history. The contracts cover more than 500,000 men and women.

During the two years since the last UE convention, the union won 450 National Labor Relations Board elections covering 99,850 workers. A total of 223,522 workers joined UE during the two years.

### Transport Union Saves Job for Fired Driver

Prompt action by the Transport Workers Union, CIO, resulted in the Schenectady Railway Co. reinstating Frank Audet of Troy, bus driver fired for operating his bus ahead of schedule.

## 301 Price Control Group Calls City-Wide Session

The Price Control Committee of Local 301 has invited other unions, fraternal, civic and veterans' groups to a meeting at 8 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Veterans' Rooms, 618 State St., to map a campaign against increased living costs. Alfred Pelrah is chairman.

The Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, which will be represented at the meeting, has recommended that meetings be called in all communities of this district to consider problems arising from skyrocketing cost-of-living.

## PAC Plans Campaign For CIO Candidates

An active campaign will be put on by CIO-PAC in the November election for Joseph Dominelli, veterans' committee chairman of Local 301, for sheriff; Thomas Fyvie, secretary-treasurer of Steel Local 2054, for state senator; and Lewis Benedict, president of Transport Workers 159, for City Council. The Schenectady County PAC Advisory Committee met last week to review the primary work and Chairman Ernest Herman, who is from Steel 2054, announced the decision to push the drive for the three labor candidates.

Dominelli piled up a big vote in the Republican primary for sheriff. Although the new CIO organization was unable to beat the well-oiled Republican machine, the heavy inroads into the GOP machine showed the possibilities of CIO-PAC strength. Dominelli, Fyvie, and Benedict are candidates on the American Labor Party line.

## Resolution Condemns Fascist Franco Rule

Condemning the fascist Franco government in Spain, the Capital District Industrial Union Council again went on record at its August meeting urging that the United States break off diplomatic relations with Franco.

The Council concurred with the anti-Franco resolution submitted by James B. Carey, national CIO secretary. The resolution described the use of terror and force to crush the trade unions of Spain and pledged aid to the democratic and labor groups opposing the Franco government.

## GE Calls for Speedup to Hide Need For Higher Wages, Peterson Charges

The GE's cry for production speedup doesn't fool GE workers, Andrew Peterson, Local 301 president, said in the union's Labor Day broadcast over Station WSNY.

Thomas Fyvie, secretary-treasurer of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America and ALP candidate for state senate, who also took part in the radio program, spoke on the close identity between the interests of labor and the rest of the community.

Brother Peterson quoted from the GE Schenectady Works News:

"Increased production will mean more employment. That is job security—AMERICAN style."

He said he blushed to think "that anyone would have the crust to call the speed-up American."

"It may be GE style," Peterson continued, "but the speed-up idea now being drummed at us to drown out the real issue of wages and prices is neither American nor job security."

### Speed-Up Led to Depression

"Let's examine this plea for greater production. In the 1920's certain labor leaders were urging their members on to greater efforts for their employers. And what happened? From 1919 to 1929 production per worker in the United States rose 50 per cent. The worker's real earnings rose only 15 per cent. Does anyone have to be reminded of the result? Have you forgotten the millions of unemployed, the breadlines, the hunger marches, the hundreds of thousands of foreclosed farms?"

"The plain fact is that increased production is fine IF, and it's a tremendous big IF, if the increased production is

passed on to those who produce it, to the workers and farmers.

"Otherwise, the only effect of increased production per employee is to increase profits, with the worker unable to buy what he produces, to the point of the inevitable crash and depression."

"Unfortunately the big employer has not yet been found who is willing to take a reasonable profit and let the workers receive the fruit of their increased productivity."

### A Phony Answer

"Yes, GE's cry for greater production has a hollow ring for the GE worker. He knows that it's a phony answer to his need for higher wages to make up for the price rises which already have eaten up the wage raises he won in a hard fight earlier this year. The GE worker knows that if he had not won those raises, Big Business greed and an irresponsible Congress would have pushed the prices just as high, and he would be much worse off. He also knows that only a continuing fight, both to make government keep prices down and to offset the recent price increases through higher wages, will make his lot bearable."

## Bank Check-Off Covers Non-Union Workers Too

The contract of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, covering employes of the National Savings Bank in Albany, has an unusual angle to its check-off clause.

In addition to deducting initiation fees and dues from the pay of union members under the check-off, the bank must deduct similar sums from the pay of non-union employes. The money deducted from the pay of non-members goes to the Albany Community Chest.

In other words, non-members don't save themselves a penny by staying out of the union.

The bank wouldn't agree to a straight union shop, but consented to this check-off arrangement in addition to maintenance-of-membership.

## Here Is 301 Roll-call At Council Meeting

Delegates from Local 301 at the August meeting of the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, were: William Mastriani, Council president; Dewey Brashear, A. E. Davis, Ralph Hruby, Fred Pacelli and Homer Roy. The small representation was attributed to the fact that the Council meeting was the day after the strenuous Schenectady Primary Day.

Jerry Steinberg, U. E. organizer, attended as fraternal delegate from the Office Workers Organizing Committee of the GE plant. Joseph Rotundo of Local 301 was also present.

The attendance list given out by the Council for July by mistake omitted Rudy Ellis, Local 301, who was present.