

## GE Workers Won 6 Day Strike Here in 1913; Mayor Lunn Aided Strikers, Protected Pickets

The strike of 15,000 workers representing 14 unions at the Schenectady GE plant was the leading story in a copy of the Nov. 29, 1913 Knickerbocker Press which Michael Tedisco, 301 Board member, recently turned over to the EU News.

Settlement of the six-day strike was expected by nightfall, the Albany paper stated. The workers walked out because the company laid-off two union organizers, Frank Dujay and Mabel Leslie, and because GE officials failed to show up at a meeting with the workers' committee to discuss the grievance.

Further research among old files of the paper showed that the strike was settled as predicted, Saturday night, with a real victory for the unions. Dujay and Miss Leslie were reinstated at their same rate of pay and the workers marched triumphantly back to their jobs Monday.

### Mayor Protected Strikers

George R. Lunn, then mayor of Schenectady, played an important part in settling the strike. He had been elected to office on the Socialist ticket against Democratic and Republican candidates, with active labor support.

The day the strike started, Mayor Lunn issued a statement that the pickets would be given every legal protection.

"There is too common an impression abroad," he said, "that when employees go out on strike they lose all their rights as citizens. In this struggle we shall preserve for them, so far as we are able, every legal right."

He pointed out that pickets had a right "peacefully to persuade any employees desiring to return not to do so," and "peacefully to persuade any men who have gone to work to leave the shop and join the strikers."

(Thirty union men and one woman were sworn in as special police officers to protect the strikers.)

### 'Epoch-Making' Statement

Mayor Lunn also stated: "It is a duty which we shall cheerfully fulfill to see that provision is made for all cases of need. Not a single person of whom I shall have knowledge shall suffer for lack of food or clothing while I am mayor."

"The city funds will not be spared in alleviating suffering through lack of food or clothing."

The Knickerbocker Press news story said, "The mayor's statement is considered epoch-making as coming from a chief executive in time of strike. It is a guarantee to the workers that the city will spend any amount of its funds to prevent want among the workers, and is the first direct result of the mayor's conviction that a city is responsible first and last to its residents."

## Newsreel



Said Congressman Kearney, "By Heck This PAC is a pain in the neck! How on earth can I win When those dollars roll in . . . Something tells me my future's a wreck!"

### Women Active in Strike

After the strike was won, Mayor Lunn and Mrs. Ella Reeves Bloor, then an organizer for the American Federation of Labor, were speakers at a meeting of women workers. (Mrs. Bloor is now a Communist leader.) Mayor Lunn told them the fact the women stood solidly together was largely responsible for winning the fight. Mrs. Bloor said, "In no other city that I know would an administration stand behind the strikers as this administration has done."

The Knickerbocker Press said she took the lead in getting 500 girls, including non-union workers, to walk out when the strike signal was given Nov. 25. She had entered the plant early in the morning with a package that looked like a lunch bag, so that management mistook her for an employee.

Old-timers at GE remember that the 1913 strike was one of the rare occasions when the workers won a fight against the company, before 1936 when UE became established. All earlier organizing efforts failed or were crushed by the company.

EU News will welcome any factual material, old clippings or records, on early organizing efforts at the plant.

### Whoops!

The price of a pint of milk at the Schenectady GE cafeterias was raised again this week. Now it's 13 cents instead of 12 cents.

## Peterson Warns Stewards Against Union Disrupters

After reporting on the Un-American Committee hearings and the attempts of Salvatore Vottis to smear the union by his testimony, President Andrew Peterson warned the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night against "a group of people in this union who are trying to create disunity and bad public relations."

Peterson said, "Vottis was put out by the membership and that's what happens to people who work for outside interests."

Referring to the group trying to disrupt the local today he said:

"This group calls itself the Committee for Democratic Action. It will not succeed any more than Vottis succeeded. A man who does an honest job of standing up to the employer will be called a Communist or an anarchist."

"If you want to hold meetings, hold them in this hall, not in cellars with people who have been thrown out of this union."

"I say to this little group of people, don't disrupt this local. If Peterson is not doing his job, we have democratic elections and you can vote someone else in. But when officers are elected, support them."

Peterson said all the people attacked by Vottis had done fine work for the union and that to charge any of them with serving the interests of a foreign power "is a damnable lie."

## 45 Women Get Raises in AER

The anticipated earning rate, and therefore the timing rates on which prices are based, were raised this week for about 45 women workers in Bldgs. 69, 81, and 285, as the indirect result of the grievance filed by Local 301 late last year over discrimination against women on piece work jobs.

The main dispute over the women's AER remains unsettled at the national level, with the company still refusing to arbitrate. But in the meantime specific jobs were examined and the company agreed that the 45 women in question were rated too low. The jobs involved were under Foreman Diaz and Kahler in Bldg. 81, Foreman Locke in 69, and Foreman Becker in 85. The AER's and timing rates were raised by six cents, eight cents, and in one case, covering a small group, by 17 cents.

The increases will mean many present piece work prices being raised, as well as future prices.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - C. I. O.

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## GE Turbine Men Refuse Overtime

### Considering the Turbine Speed-Up Meet After Male Insists on Short Shift



Close-up of one row in the big Turbine Day Shift members' meeting Monday which voted to refuse overtime over the current shift dispute.

## Battle of Mirrors Won in Building 12

The battle of the mirrors in Building 12 ended happily, just as this paper was going to press, when A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, agreed to install mirrors for the groups of women involved. Before that a foreman's severe taste had the women wondering what would come next.

The group was engaged in taping and had been in Building 14. There they had kept a few looking-glasses posted on lockers, because their work is dirty and they wanted to wipe an occasional smudge off their faces. Everybody seemed to agree it was good for the morale of the men as well as the women.

But the group were moved to Building 12. Along came Foreman Owens, and ordered the mirrors taken down the other day. G. A. Weightman, the shop steward, argued against the order as silly, but got nowhere. The foreman thought the mirrors detracted from the color scheme of his department.

At first the company labor relations office backed up the foreman, but Stevens decided otherwise.

## Company Refuses Week's Pay Due on Lay-Off Notice

Louis Male, general superintendent, on Tuesday refused to pay five men who were laid-off in Building 69 in May, and given other jobs, the week's pay at their old rate to which they were entitled under the contract provision for one week's notice.

Male contended the provision did not apply because the men were transferred. The contract clearly makes such a transfer a lay-off requiring the week's notice. Business Agent Leo Jandreau will recommend to the Executive Board that the case be taken to the national level.

## Members' Meeting Will Elect CIO Delegates

Delegates to the New York State Convention of the CIO will be elected at the regular monthly membership of Local 301, to be held at the union hall at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday (August 19).

The State CIO Convention is scheduled for September 4, 5, and 6 at Saratoga Springs.

### For Protection of All

Discussion in the meetings emphasized that the action was by all division members for the protection of all. Members still on eight-hour shifts stressed that they felt involved just as much as those now out to 7 1/2 hours.

The action was communicated to Louis Male, general superintendent, by Local 301 President Andrew Peterson. His letter concluded:

"If you wish at any time to meet to attempt to work out a new solution to this problem, we shall always be ready for such a discussion."

The members' complaint against the Turbine program of speed-up was placed before the community by Board Member William A. Stewart over the radio on the Local 301 program Monday on WSNY, and in advertisements by the Turbine stewards in newspapers here and in surrounding communities last Friday.

### Stewart on Radio

Questioned on the radio by Milo Lathrop, Brother Stewart said, in part:

"We feel that the management is trying to turn out eight hours of work in 7 1/2 hours — in other words, they want to pay for only 7 1/2 hours, but they will expect the same or more production than

(Continued on Page 4)

## Union Presses Point On Upgrading Set-up

Local 301 is continuing its discussions with the local GE management over the question of upgrading employees with seniority before hiring new people for the higher-rated jobs.

While the company has repeatedly accepted the principle, it has not been applied. The personnel department claims to be under no obligation to look for qualified people in the plant, even where such people already did the better work and were demoted for lack of work. The personnel men take the position that it is up to the individual worker to show "initiative" in approaching his foreman as to better work for which he would qualify.

But men who have shown such initiative have met with considerable difficulty getting transferred.

Members who feel qualified for better jobs should get in touch with their foremen. If they have reason to believe such jobs are being filled with people with less seniority, they should ask their steward to file a grievance.

## Win Raise for Three

Reclassification and five-cent raises were won for three out of a group of five machinists in Building 53, when President Andrew Peterson met with General Superintendent Louis Male Tuesday. The grievance had been raised in connection with the Machinists' case but was separated from it when the company claimed that the men were largely on production. The machinists' case did not cover production machinists.

## Still the "Free" Press

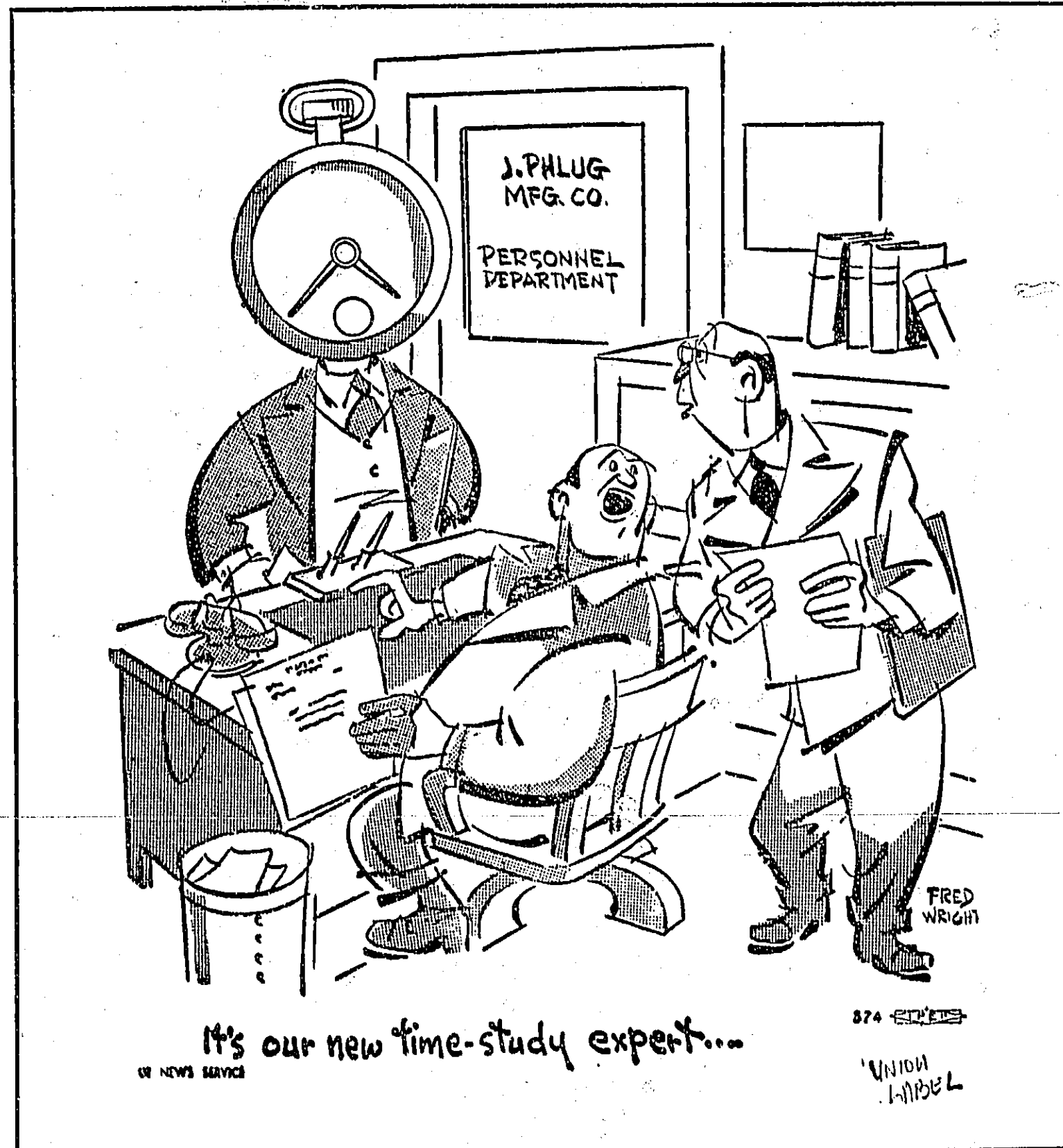
The Toledo Blade, one of the oldest papers in Ohio, removed Eleanor Coakley, president of the Toledo Newspaper Guild, from her reporter's job after her election as an officer of the Toledo CIO Council. She was given a job in the paper's library. The Newspaper Guild and other CIO unions are fighting the demotion.

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## Gift to Rem-Rand Workers

The Executive Board voted last week to give another \$1,000 to the Remington Rand strike fund from the amount appropriated by the last membership meeting. The UE strikers won their six-week fight and have returned to work with a pay raise and six paid holidays, but still have heavy strike expenses and relief costs to pay off.

## Day for Appeals

The 301 Grievance Committee meets at 4 p.m. every Friday at the union hall to hear the complaint of any member dissatisfied with the way a grievance has been handled. Appeals of second shift workers are heard at 1 p.m.

## Glasses Found

A pair of glasses was found on the sidewalk outside 301 hall after last week's Stewards Council meeting. The case had the label Dr. A. Milstein, New York City. The owner can claim the glasses at the union office.

PROTECT THE UNION CONTRACT

## Amended Constitution Printed; Copies at Hall

The constitution of Local 301, which was amended in many parts at the May membership meeting, has been printed and will be available to the members beginning next week. You can get a copy at the union office or you can ask your steward to get one for you.

The Constitution committee, whose recommendations were adopted in amending the constitution, included Edward Wallingford, Bldg. 60, chairman; Blanchard Mowers, 77, secretary; Frank Emspak, 46, Roy Lash, 60, and George Walker, 77.

## See a CIO Insurance Man

A plan to encourage union members to buy insurance only through CIO members has been announced by the Capital District Industrial Union Council. The plan calls for supplying all unions with a list of insurance agents who are members of the UOPWA-CIO. At present there are CIO agents working for the John Hancock and Prudential companies in this area.

## Nixon Makes Check On Voting Records

"A Congress that overwhelmingly votes for the Taft-Hartley bill can't be expected to develop a foreign policy for America which is in the best interests of the people of the world."

This recent statement by UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak set Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative,

"I made a check of the voting record of the Senate and House Foreign Affairs Committees", Nixon reported.

"These committees do the real job on our foreign policy. We received one vote (Senator Barkley, Ky.) against the Taft-Hartley Bill from the 13 Republican and Democratic members of the Senate Committee. Out of the 23 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee only 7 voted to uphold the Taft-Hartley Bill veto."

"These are the committees deciding whether to maintain friendly relations with the Soviet Union and the post-war pro-labor, anti-fascist regimes in Europe. They decide whether to listen to the people or to big business seeking to protect and expand its international investments. Just as they heed the NAM lobby on the labor bill, these committees and the majority of Congress listen to the Big Business lobby in foreign affairs."



Russ Nixon

## Southern Wage Differential Reversed for GE Carpenters

Reversing the usual Southern wage differential, GE here has one set of carpenter rates in Grounds and Buildings (Building 107) in the Southern part of the works, and another set ten cents an hour lower in Office Service (Building 23) at the Northern end.

Louis Male, general superintendent, defended the differential when the case of four carpenters in Building 23 came before him as grievance Tuesday. He claimed there was a difference in the work.

President Andrew Peterson argued that an "A" carpenter is an "A" carpenter, and will ask the Executive Board to send the case to New York for discussion.

## National CIO Broadcast

The national CIO radio program is at 6:45 p.m. every Saturday over WOKO.

## GE's Shreve Threatens Worse Than Taft-Hartley; C. of C. Head Directs Red-Baiting Drive on Labor

Earl O. Shreve, new U. S. Chamber of Commerce president, threatened labor with legislation even worse than the Taft-Hartley law during his triumphal return to Schenectady last week. Shreve, a GE vice-president, is on leave of absence to handle the Chamber of Commerce job.

The Union-Star Aug. 6, reporting an interview with him, stated that according to Shreve "if some labor leaders continue their present efforts to discredit and circumvent the Taft-Hartley act, they may force even more drastic legislation."

Shreve also complained to the Union-Star about "unscrupulous labor leaders" exploiting the workers. He blamed labor for the housing shortage and urged "increased productivity" to maintain a high standard of living in the United States. What "Increased Productivity" Means (In GE language "increased productivity" usually means speed-up. Take the carboly tool dispute, for instance. GE won't admit that a worker whose production increases should make higher earnings.)

At the big banquet given for him, Shreve was introduced as "the man who sets the policy of American business at home and abroad." Shreve spoke against taxes which "hobble American enterprise when the incentive to increase production and improve management should be strongest."

Before he arrived here, the Gazette

ran a drooling editorial, "Welcome Visitor", praising Shreve.

"He will be welcomed enthusiastically," the Gazette gushed. (Editor John E. N. Hume, Jr. of the Gazette is the son of GE Vice-president Hume.)

Chamber's "Red" Pamphlet  
One of Shreve's jobs as Chamber of Commerce head is to see that the country is deluged with the C. of C. pamphlet, "Communists within the Labor Movement." This red-baiting booklet, printed this year, instructs employers in stalling collective bargaining, preventing union organization, disrupting and smashing unions. At the time it was written, there had to be at least a pretense of acting within the structure of the Wagner Act. Therefore the emphasis was on how to attack unions and union leaders and still be legal—or not get caught.

But now that the Taft-Hartley law is in effect, employers can move right out in the open in achieving the aims of the book.

GE has supplied its foremen with pocket-size editions of the book. The Schenectady foremen have had theirs for some weeks now.

## Male Pays Memorial Day Claims "Without Precedent"

Louis Male, general superintendent, agreed on Tuesday to pay the remaining pending cases of disputed holiday pay for Memorial Day, with the exception of one man who did not work during the week.

Male told President Andrew Peterson that he would order payment because he felt that supervision had not given the workers adequate notice of holiday requirements before Memorial Day. He said he wanted it "distinctly understood" that he was not setting a precedent.

Leaving early the day before a holiday, without specific permission, or returning late after a holiday without good reason, may result in losing holiday pay.

## More Contracts Ordered

The demand for copies of the 1947 GE-UE contract has been so heavy that Local 301 has ordered a third lot of 5,000. Every member is entitled to get one. Ask your shop steward today, if you haven't obtained yours yet.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE

## Jandreau Back at Hall



Leo Jandreau

Business Agent  
Leo Jandreau has virtually recovered from the serious illness which developed late in June. He came to work at the 301 hall Monday, but is still under doctor's orders.

He will be at the membership meeting Tuesday night.

## Meetings for Absent Stewards

The series of section meetings of stewards to discuss their work under the new contract and their problems under the Taft-Hartley law was concluded last Friday, but additional meetings will be called shortly for stewards who missed the meetings because of vacations. The meetings were ordered by the executive board.