

Fitzgerald Attacks GE Labor Attitude

General Electric Co. is "one of the toughest companies to do business with" and is "determined to destroy the organized labor movement", Albert J. Fitzgerald, international UE president, told the Local 301 membership and shop stewards meeting May 28 at 301 Hall.

There was no real strike settlement with GE last year, he pointed out, "nothing but an armed truce."

Fitzgerald said that as soon as the raise was settled this year, GE sent its stooges into the shops to cut piece work prices and speed-up day work. At the same time, the company refused to arbitrate grievances at Schenectady and at other plants, in violation of its contracts.

Demonstrations like the recent Schenectady stoppages have started to develop at Lynn, Erie, Pittsfield and Fort Wayne, Fitzgerald reported.

"You people are going to maintain your gains only by carrying on the kind of activity you have been carrying on here for the past few days", he said.

GE Won't Arbitrate

The UE president gave examples of GE defying the contract arbitration provisions at various plants. The Lynn local took 30 grievance cases to James Burnison last week. He agreed "to look into two of them" and refused arbitration in the others.

Union members need all their strength and unity now to protect themselves from GE and to fight anti-labor legislation, Fitzgerald said.

"But we have to spend time fighting disrupters in our union who knowingly or unknowingly are promoting the line of the National Association of Manufacturers. I refer to the people who leave the kind of papers on work benches that were left this morning".

(Papers published by the Carey-Block faction were distributed at the Schenectady plant that morning).

"The least they could do would be to walk down the center of the floor instead of leaving the papers on benches," Fitzgerald said. "People who slander the union's good name are playing into the hands of Charlie Wilson, of Taft and of Hartley".

Watch Out for Red-Baiters

Fitzgerald warned the union members to be careful of those people "who would keep you so busy answering charges you won't recognize their attempt to make this a fascist state."

"The best defense against communism," he said, "is sufficient food on the

Local Will Vote June 17 on PAC

A special membership meeting has been called for 7:30 p.m. June 17 at 301 Hall to decide the policy of Local 301 on union political action. A letter was mailed to every member of the local announcing the meeting and its purpose. The special meeting was ordered by the May 28 membership and stewards meeting.

The Executive Board has voted unanimously in favor of full cooperation with the CIO-PAC program.

breakfast table and a decent house to live in."

He warned the membership against being sidetracked by the attacks on the union from the "Democratic Action" group, from employers and the press.

"We want our members to keep their eye on Charlie Wilson and his errand boys — Spicer and Pfeif."

In a plea for an intense campaign against the Taft-Hartley bill, Fitzgerald declared, "No union can defend itself if this bill is enacted."

He accused GE of being one of the strongest backers of the bill. The membership gave Fitzgerald a standing ovation at the end of his speech.

Veterans' Center

The Local 301 Veterans' Center is open from 1 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday at the union hall.

Monopoly Responsible for 50,000 Jobless in Electrical Industry, GEB Statement Says

At least 50,000 workers in the electrical manufacturing industry are jobless today, the General Executive Board of UE reported Saturday.

The GEB placed responsibility for increased unemployment upon American monopoly "which hopes in this way to depress wages through the job-hungry men and women who will be standing outside factory gates when there are millions of unemployed."

"The government must take whatever steps may be necessary to provide full employment," the GEB stated.

"The President of the United States, his Council of Economic Advisors and the Congress must abandon their inexcusable failure to act effectively to establish the right to work. — Monopoly must be restrained; the American farmers' economic security and prosperity guaranteed, and small business really given the assistance it needs to play its full and essential role in the American economy."

Immediate steps which the nation should take were listed, including stop-

GE Censors Leaflet On Women's Earnings

Company police stopped the distribution of a 301 leaflet on the women's AER case May 28.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau at once protested to General Superintendent Male. After "investigating", Male told Jandreau he was backing up the company police because he didn't like the contents of the leaflet. Jandreau warned him the company has no right to censor union notices.

It seems there were several things about the leaflet that annoyed Male, but he disliked one sentence most of all. This was the sentence at the end of a paragraph explaining how the AER on women's jobs is rigged to make earnings less than on men's jobs.

"It's the crudest kind of discrimination", the union leaflet stated.

That is the line which particularly offended GE management. Maybe GE is sensitive about the discrimination, or maybe it thinks the women workers don't know their piece prices are too low.

Here's the rest of the paragraph.

"The issue in the (AER) case is simple. The AER (anticipated earning rate) determines the timing rate on which our piece prices are figured. In the case of men's jobs, the AER includes the usual 'incentive factor' of 10 to 15 cents over the day work rate. In the case of women's jobs, there is no such factor, as Mr. Howell admitted to us here."

Pension Committee

Adam Boss, Blanchard Mowers and Marshall White have been appointed to the Pension Committee to study possibilities of setting up a Local 301 fund to aid pensioners who can't live on their small retirement payments from GE.

ping evictions and mortgage foreclosures of the unemployed, price control, emergency housing, relieving the tax burden of low-income groups, broadening unemployment insurance, social security and wage and hour law provisions.

Electrical Union News

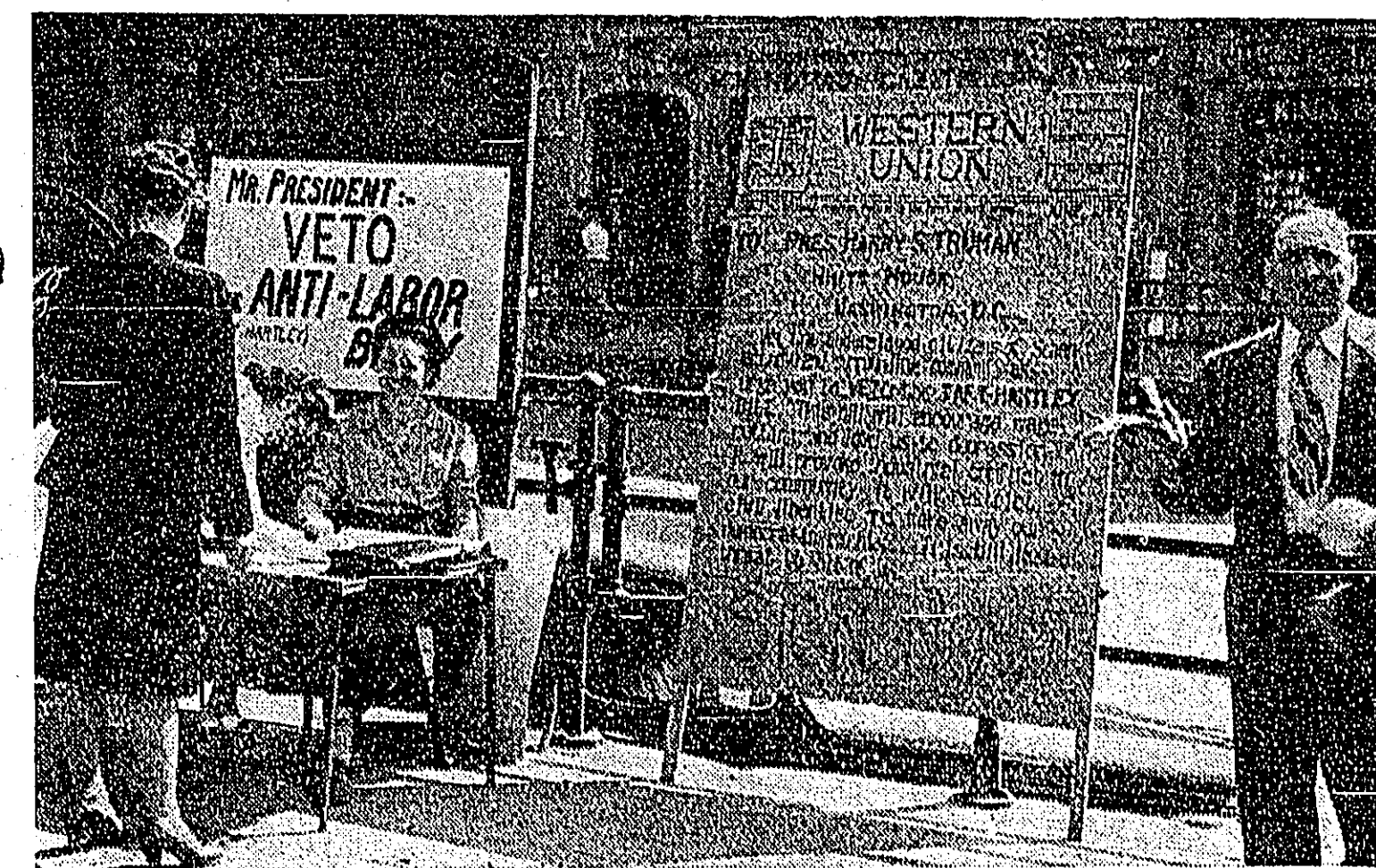
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Public Asks Truman to Veto



TELEGRAM TO TRUMAN—It was easy to get signatures from the general public for the giant telegram which Local 301 sent to President Truman demanding that he veto the Taft-Hartley Bill. The telegram was on display three days last week on State St. The picture shows Helen Quirini, 301 recording secretary, seated at the table at the left getting signatures of two girls, and Fred Pacelli, 301 Legislative Committee chairman, at right of telegram.

Empspak to Speak To Local on PAC

Julius Empspak, international UE secretary-treasurer, will be principal speaker at the special meeting of Local 301 on political action at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, at 301 Hall.

A letter announcing the meeting and signed by President Andrew Peterson and Business Agent Leo Jandreau was mailed to every member of the local.

The letter pointed out that the Taft-Hartley bill was passed because "working people voted for politicians whose records proved they were enemies of the people."

Peterson and Jandreau declared GE is already taking advantage of the Taft-Hartley bill by refusing to settle grievances or arbitrate them.

"Today politics is threatening to drive you back to the conditions of Hoover

days. What will you do about it?"

Urging full attendance Tuesday, the letter said:

"This meeting will make decisions. Whether you favor or oppose union political action, now is the time to say so. Don't stay away and then criticize the decisions."

SOS to Union Members

ACT TODAY before it is too late.

Write or wire President Truman demanding that he veto the Taft-Hartley bill and that he call on all Democratic members of Congress to back his veto.

Write or wire U. S. Senator Irving M. Ives at the Senate Office Bldg., Washington. Demand that he vote to uphold the veto when or if the bill is returned to Congress.

Company Tries To Hide Facts By Untrue 'Ads'

General Electric advertisements freely misstating the facts about its refusal to arbitrate grievances in accordance with the contract appeared during the past week. They apparently were the company's belated attempt to answer Local 301's charge that the company was flagrantly violating the agreement and causing trouble.

To the untruths the company advertisements added a heavy-handed effort to confuse the issue by references to union "creation of trouble," and to "those . . . who lead our employees into trouble by agitation." It is an old-fashioned technique of anti-labor employers to scream "outside agitator" when workers stand up for their legitimate rights. It is the spirit of the Taft-Hartley bill.

G.E. Likes Court Delays

A new note was thrown into the dispute by the latest advertisement, which proposed that the union go to court to enforce the arbitration provision. This is clearly in line with the Taft-Hartley bill, which provides for tying up unions in the courts. Going to court to enforce a union contract is contrary to all bargaining practice, because of the months' and years' delay involved. That is why contracts provide for arbitration. Also, workers know they cannot obtain a fair deal on labor relations in the courts, as the 301 members learned from the injunction decision by Judge Alexander here during the strike.

GE's first advertisement said "where arbitration is called for, it will submit to arbitration."

The union called the company's bluff with an advertisement listing the 11 grievances on which arbitration was requested by the union and refused by the company.

Company Distorts Contract

Then came the GE advertisement loaded with misstatements:

The advertisement stated the griev-

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GE Sensitive To Federal Reports

General Electric Company and the Morgan interests with which it is connected are highly sensitive to publication of government agency findings about their financial and cartel connections.

Charles E. Wilson's letter to Local 301 President Andrew Peterson, denying government charges contained in a Local 301 resolution, was given a large part of Page 1 of the last Works News. Hugh Crane was brought into the effort to show that the House of Morgan does not really control a vast industrial empire.

The Works News engaged in a peculiar distortion of the 301 resolution, putting in it a charge that was never there. It called the resolution "Mr. Peterson's resolution", though the resolution was passed unanimously by one of the biggest membership meetings.

Morgan Officer Denies

Peterson also received a reply from Charles D. Dickey, GE director who is vice-president of J. P. Morgan & Co., declaring the local's resolution had "absolutely no foundation in fact." He declared he was told by E. T. Stannard, president of Kennecott Copper, that no copper cartel existed, that Kennecott is producing copper at the fullest possible rate, producing more domestic refined copper than in any previous peacetime period. He also declared that it was "fantastic" to say that GE, Kennecott, and Phelps-Dodge are controlled by Morgan and the First National Bank.

President Peterson answered both Wilson and Dickey by quoting directly from the actual reports of the Federal Trade Commission and the Smaller War Plants Corporation, the government agencies which made the charges cited by the 301 resolution. He cited particularly the FTC's references to monopoly controls and the fact the stockpile of copper in early 1946 "was viewed with misgivings within the industry." The report noted that at that time "the dominant producers might well consider it to their advantage to permit the continuance of

Veterans' Vacation Appeal Is Planned

The international UE office has announced an appeal will be filed from a Federal Court decision upholding the action of the General Electric Co. in refusing vacations or vacation pay to five World War II veterans, members of Local 301.

Both the Selective Service Act and the UE-GE contract were violated by the company, the union charges. The five veterans returned to work within 90 days of their discharge from military service and were entitled to the same vacation rights the year of their return as other employees, according to the union. GE refused to count time in military service in figuring eligibility for vacations.

Federal Judge J. Joseph Smith's decision in favor of GE was filed last week in New York City. The appeal cannot be argued until fall.

Cornell Labor Student To Work in 301 Office

A student from the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, will work in the Local 301 office for 10 weeks this summer as part of his college training in industrial relations.

The Local 301 membership voted to cooperate with the school again this year, on recommendation of the Executive Board. John C. Agathon, former Army flier, took his labor internship here last summer.

labor difficulties to curtail production." The Phelps-Dodge strike continued eight months because of refusal to accept the national wage pattern.

Wilson's Denial

Peterson cited the fact that the Smaller War Plants Corporation specifically listed GE, along with U. S. Steel, Kennecott, Phelps-Dodge, and 32 other companies, as controlled by Morgan-First National. He added in the letter to Wilson:

"I note with interest your flat denial of the statement made by the Smaller War Plants Corporation. I could engage in extensive quotations from the report of this corporation and the evidence which it presented in support of its statement. But I believe that is not necessary. On these vital questions which affect the employment of American workers and the general public interest, you will surely agree that the public will accept the findings of these two reputable government agencies in preference to the denials of directly interested company officials."

UE Wins Wage Raises For 30,000 Upstate

Over 30,000 of the 50,000 workers represented by UE in upstate New York are now covered by the 15 cents an hour wage increase pattern. The 15 cents include the general wage increase plus paid holidays and other gains.

GE workers at Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica, Elmira, Poughkeepsie and Buffalo have received the increase; Westinghouse workers at Buffalo, Attica and Cheektowaga; General Motors Corp. workers at Delco, Rochester; Sylvania workers at Buffalo and Jamestown, and employes at about a dozen plants covered by local negotiations.

UE is now negotiating with Remington Rand for plants at Ilion, Syracuse and Tonawanda.

Farm Locals Fight Taft-Hartley Bill

Five locals of the National Farmers Union in New York state have sent telegrams to President Truman urging him to veto the Taft-Hartley bill and have urged U. S. Senator Irving M. Ives to change his stand and oppose the bill.

They are the Tri-County (Ulster, Orange and Sullivan counties) local; Otsego County, Schoharie County, Madison County and Tioga County locals.

Strike May Develop At Rem-Rand Plants

UE locals at Remington Rand plants have turned down the company's substandard wage proposals. They have authorized strike action, if necessary, to win the same wage increase pattern that UE obtained in the GE, Westinghouse and General Motors contracts.

Over 10,000 Remington Rand production workers are represented by UE at Benton Harbor, Mich. and at Tonawanda, Ilion and Syracuse, N. Y. The company offered seven cents an hour increase across-the-board, and six paid holidays, with many strings attached to the holiday pay.

Leland Stowe Broadcast

The weekly news analysis of Leland Stowe, sponsored by the international UE, is at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday on WSNY (1240 on your dial), WABY (1400) and WBCA (FM).

Hat Lost

Will the man who walked off with the wrong gray felt hat May 20 from 301 hall please return it to the union office?

People Can Still Win Taft-Hartley Bill Veto Pressman Says; Warns Against Fascism

If the common people "speak with a mighty voice" during the next few days, Republicans and Democrats must listen and the Taft-Hartley bill can be vetoed, Lee Pressman, general counsel of CIO, told CIO stewards here Tuesday. The stewards filled the 301 hall to overflowing in Schenectady's "Veto Day" conference Tuesday night.

President Truman must not just give a "namby-pamby veto," Pressman declared. "He must tell Congress, 'this is a step toward Fascism, and the American people won't take Fascism!'"

The campaign of individual postcards to President Truman urging a veto, and to Senator Irving M. Ives, urging support of the veto, which has been under way in 301, was extended to the whole city at the meeting. Stewards took 5,000 more postcards for their members.

The meeting also voted to ask President Philip Murray and the national CIO executive board to reconsider their decision and approve stoppages in protest against the bill wherever possible.

NAM Planned Grab

Pressman declared that during the war, while the common people were working and fighting for victory, a group of Big Business people, represented in the National Association of Manufacturers, were planning how to achieve complete control of the country. He said they started planning in 1942, and in 1944 they put over the "carry back and carry forward" tax law which paid for their 1946 fights on unions; then they repealed the excess profits tax and OPA by a tremendous propaganda campaign of lies, and now push the Taft-Hartley bill, because "to achieve complete control of the country, they must destroy the labor movement."

"What I am describing to you is what happened in Germany," Pressman said, "and when you elect a Hitler, you may not be given another chance."

If the bill becomes law, Pressman said, the employer will call in the government to fight his workers, and "at every pretext the employer beckons and the government comes running, and you'll be fighting your government."

Pressman stressed the fact that Congressman Bernard Kearney who voted for the Taft-Hartley bill, and Senator Irving M. Ives, one of those most responsible for steering it through, were elected with the votes of working people, taken in by their propaganda.

301 on Air

Remember the weekly 301 broadcast, at 7:15 p.m. Monday over WSNY.

Union Newsboy



John Paludi of Bldg. 19, at left, distributing copies of the EU News at the main gate of GE. He's on duty every week.

Company Hides Facts

(Continued from Page 1)
ances were not subject to arbitration. They are, as spelled out in the contract. The very contract provision cited by the company makes job rates and job classifications a matter of application of the contract, named in the arbitration provision.

The company advertisement omitted from the list of grievances the long-standing one over continuous process operation in silicone, which it once agreed to arbitrate. That of course is also a clear question of contract application.

The company statement that "by agreement with the union job rates are not a part of the contract" is a distortion of fact. There is no such "agreement." The agreement is that "any question which affects hourly rates, piece work rates, or salary rates of individuals or groups" is taken up locally under the contract.

The company said "no business can be successfully operated" if such grievances are arbitrated. It just happens that thousands of business firms have operated successfully for years while doing so.

The company of course dodges one very simple fact. Companies and unions frequently disagree on whether or not a grievance is subject to arbitration. But the accepted practice is to submit that very question to the outside arbitrator. Otherwise the contract cannot be enforced peacefully.

Local AFL Condemns Congressman Kearney

The Schenectady Federation of Labor, AFL, voted unanimously recently to condemn Representative Bernard W. Kearney, Republican, for voting for the Hartley anti-labor bill.

The resolution pointed out that when Congressman Kearney was seeking reelection he said he "would never vote to take away any of the gains which labor had hitherto made."

Kearney "has betrayed the confidence of trade unionists who supported him in 1944 and 1946," the AFL group stated. "Such perfidy on his part is inexcusable."

Declaring that "the usefulness of Mr. Kearney as a representative of the 31st Congressional District — has definitely ended," the Federation called upon trade unionists enrolled in the Republican Party "to rebuke him in no uncertain way for his betrayal of their interests."

Union Gets Pay Raise For Bldg. 60 Veteran

A joint inspection at the Howell grievance level has brought a 12 cents-an-hour raise to a returned veteran in Bldg. 60. General Superintendent Male agreed to the raise in a meeting with the grievance committee headed by President Andrew Peterson, after the joint inspection showed that while the veteran was supposed to be grinding only drills up to one-half inch, he actually had been grinding taps and all kinds of drills for months. He received two months' back pay at eight cents, and an additional four cents for one month. Representing the union in the joint investigation were Building Chief Steward Stanley Bishop and 301 Chief Steward William Mastriani.

CIO Stewards' Meeting Backs Textile Strike

The citywide CIO stewards' meeting Tuesday voted to back the strike of Local 574, Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, against Wilson Athletic Goods Mfg. Co., Schenectady.

The strike was called June 6 over a contract deadlock. Average pay is 75c.

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