

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE 301 CIO

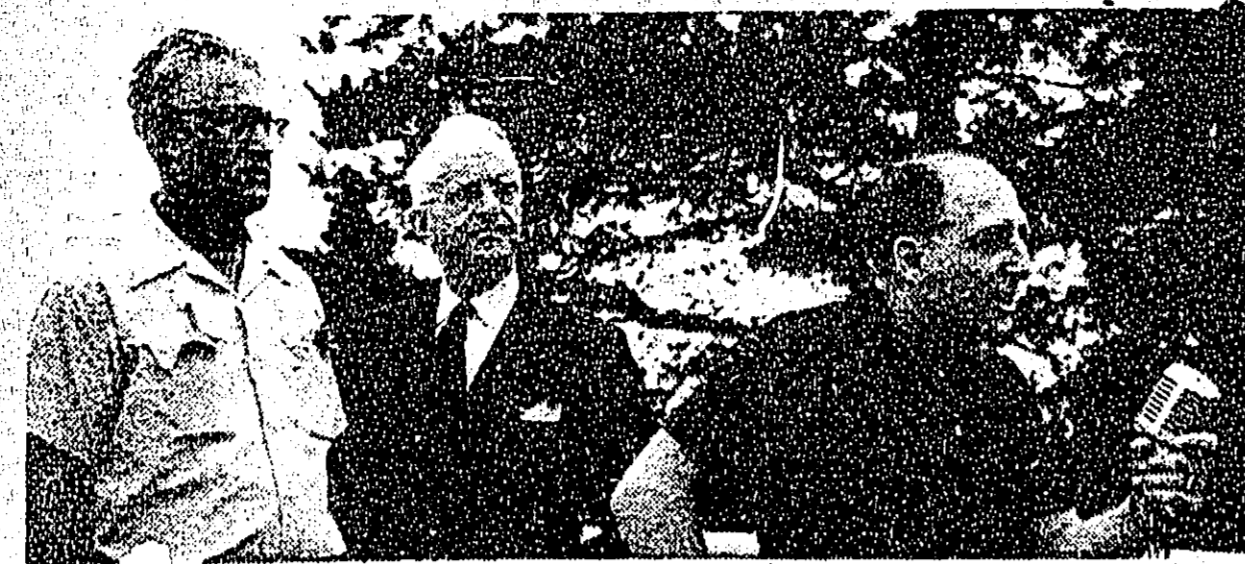
Vol. 2 — No. 1

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

July 15, 1955



Judge Campbell selects prizewinners.



President James Cagnetta welcomes huge crowd.



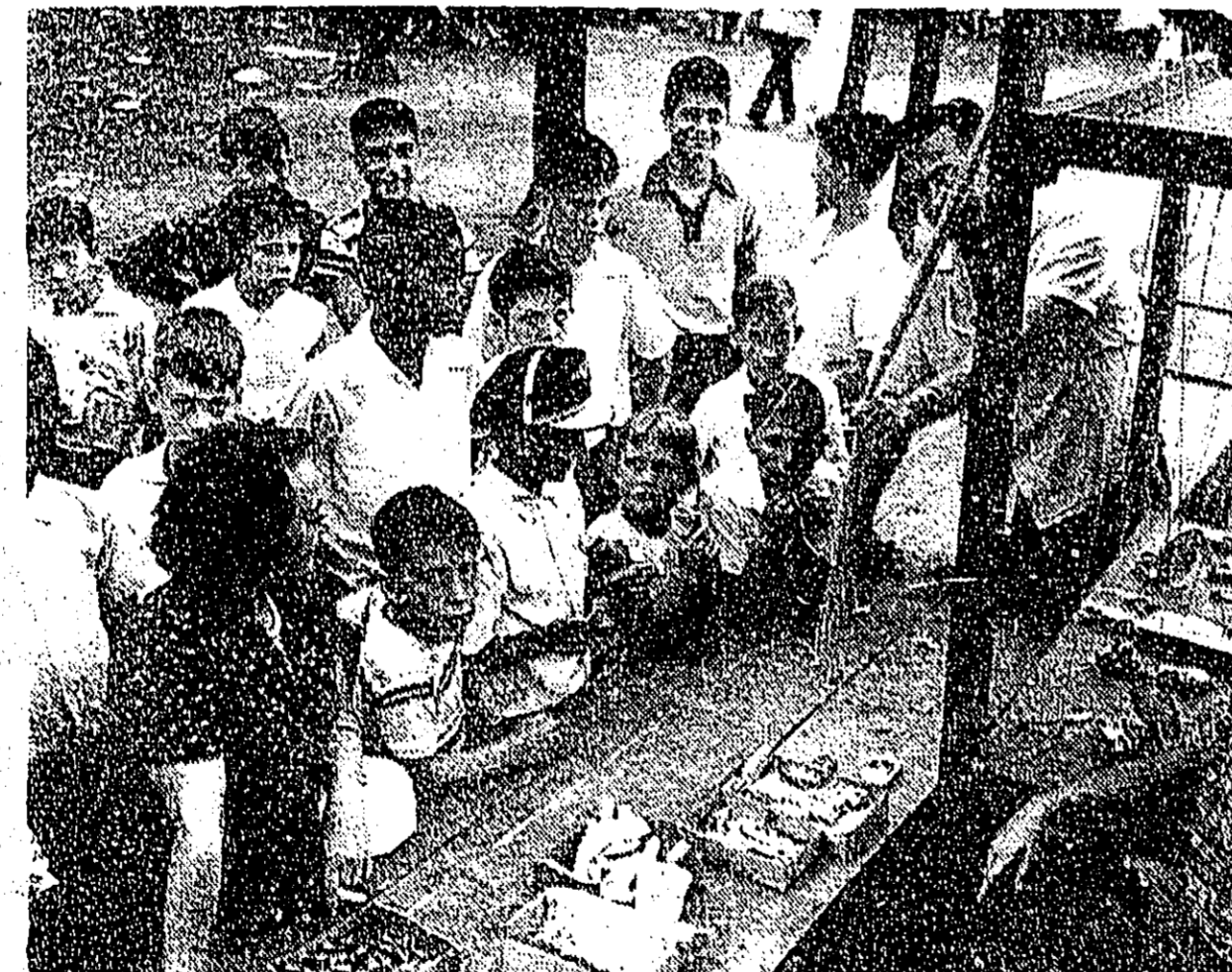
Refreshments to suit every taste.



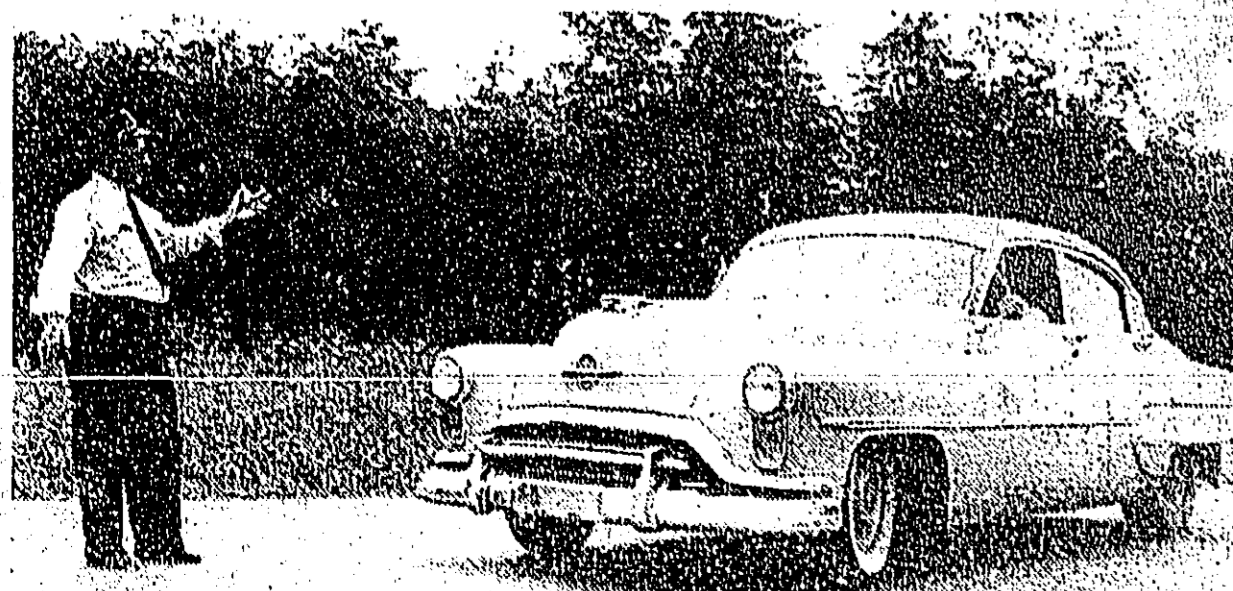
Ponies proved popular all day long.



Members of South Schenectady Hose Company on hand for all emergencies.



Elmer Collis handles one of the busy spots.



All traffic problems were expertly handled by members of Rotterdam Police Dept.



## NOTICE

### UNION OFFICE HAS MOVED

IUE Local 301's Union Office is now located at Erie Blvd. and Fuller Streets, on the 2nd Floor of what is known as the Old Car Barn.

#### Mailing Address:

121 Erie Blvd.  
Schenectady, N. Y.

#### Business Office Phones

3-1386 3-1387

#### Union Attorneys Phone

4-3155

## Toolmakers Adopt 5 Point Program

The Toolmakers, members of IUE Local 301, employed at the Schenectady Works, contend that their present rates of wages and working conditions affecting their trade are inadequate and urge local management to correct the inequities in their occupation.

At a meeting of Toolmakers on June 16, 1955, these points of dissatisfaction were thoroughly discussed which resulted in the adoption of a 5-point program covering the major items that the Toolmakers are confronted with and it was unanimously agreed that these issues must be resolved by direct negotiation. They are as follows:

1. 20 cents per hour increase in wages.
2. Toolmakers who were taken off their occupation due to lack of work shall be given the first opportunity to fill openings before consideration is given to other employees on related occupations or hiring new applicants from the gate.
3. Establish proper ratio of apprentices to the number of journeymen.
4. Establish a time element for journeyman

between Class "B" job rate and reclassification to Class "A" based on normal work performance.

5. Equal pay for equal work vs. proportion of A, B, C classifications and work jurisdiction of TRMO in Toolrooms.

The Toolmakers elected the following to act on a Negotiations Committee to present these demands to management:

N. Dube 28, G. Mele 46, J. Whitbeck 40, L. Combs 37, R. Ellis 273, R. Vitallo 17, H. McLean CART, L. Miller 273, R. Robinson 269, J. Carey, 46, G. O'Brien 17, R. Alexander, Knolls.

At a preliminary meeting held last week local management refused flatly to make any concessions in the case. G.E., which once boasted that its rates were best in a community now refuses to even consider the 20c increase warranted to make GE's rates comparable with community and area rates for the skills called for from Toolmakers.

The Union Negotiations Committee has called a meeting to determine future steps to be taken in the case.

## Giant GE Is Miser In Pension Plans

General Electric, the giant of the electrical industry, is a pygmy when it comes to its pensioners.

Although it boasts in its newspaper and magazine ads, on radio and on TV, that "Progress is our greatest product," it lags far behind not only other corporations of its size and wealth, but behind hundreds of smaller companies.

Compared with other corporations, GE is a miserable miser.

GE employees retiring this year will get far less than workers at Arma, Exide, Du Pont, GM, Bell Telephone, or Dayton Power & Light, to cite a few examples.

And GE pensioners have contributed to their pensions, while the workers in the other corporations named above do not. The employer pays the full cost.

For workers retiring this year (Continued on Page 2)

## Notify Congressman Kearney To Support Minimum Wage

The House Labor Committee is winding up hearings on the minimum wage bill. The Senate has already approved increasing the minimum from 75c to \$1.00 per hour. The House has yet to approve the increase. IUE Local 301's Executive Board, confirming action taken at the last Membership Meeting, notified Congressman Pat Kearney by telegram of their position in the matter as follows:

"Congressman Bernard Kearney  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

The Officers and Executive Board Members of Local 301, IUE-CIO, went on record last night, requesting that you as our representative in Congress, demand that the bill on the \$1.00 minimum hourly wage be brought to the floor and voted on. We strongly urge that you vote in support of this bill.

Your attention will be greatly appreciated.

JAMES J. COGNETTA,  
President, Local 301, IUE-CIO

## Foreman Refuses Dispensary Pass

When one of a foreman's first actions, after elevation to responsibility, was to refuse to accept a written grievance, when among other malpractices he attempts to ignore seniority, as in the attempted illegal transfer of J. Furlano, when this same foreman now sets himself up as a medical authority by refusing to issue a dispensary pass to an injured employee, it is not surprising. What is surprising is that the Company will still maintain said foreman, T. Kronk, Bldg. 273, in a position of responsibility.

Last June 30th, Nick Granato (Continued on Page 3)



# Giant GE Is Miser In Pension Plans

(Continued from Page 1)  
after 25 years' service, now averaging \$1.88 an hour, here is the comparison:

GE	\$47
Arma	\$94
Exide	\$78
Bell Phone	\$78
Dayton Power & Light	\$90
Du Pont	\$94
GM	\$56

And to get that \$47 pension, GE employes at \$1.88 an hour have been contributing out of their paychecks about \$74 a year.

All other firms listed above have non-contributory pensions.

GE's minimum pension for 25 years' service is \$125 a month. But that includes Social Security, and GE's pension system is so arranged that when Social Security payments increase, GE's payments decrease.

crease.

Thus, when the base for old age pensions under Social Security was raised to \$4200 on Jan. 1, 1954, GE's contribution to its pension fund was cut by 6½ per cent, at a saving of between ½ and \$2 million a year—to GE.

In other words, the increase in Social Security meant not a cent more to GE pensioners. It was GE that benefited by the change in the law—not its employes. That's what GE calls progress.

Because of a complicated formula for past service and a very poor minimum, GE production workers get comparatively little credit for their years of past service. And that is why they show up poorly in comparison with pensioners of other companies.

Other corporations have changed

their pension plans with the years, but not GE. While GE merely talks progress, other corporations have acted on progress.

DuPont, for instance, modified its pension plan in 1950 and has since made substantial modifications under which a worker averaging \$1.88 an hour for 25 years and retiring now gets \$94 a month, outside of Social Security.

GM, negotiating its first plan for production workers in 1950, recently concluded its second substantial improvement in the last five years, as a result of negotiations with the IUE-CIO and the UAW-CIO, and now grants \$2.25 a month for each year of service, outside of social security. Thus workers with 25 years get \$56 a month while workers with 40 years get \$90 a month.

Consolidated Edison made two changes since 1950 and now provides workers averaging \$1.88 an hour for 25 years with \$76 a month. Arma, an old IUE-CIO plan, provides the same worker with \$96 a month. Exide, a plan originated in 1922, but improved in 1950 negotiations with Local 113 IUE-CIO, gives pensioners in the same bracket with a similar background \$78 a month.

A number of pensioners this year will also suffer because of the poor minimum in the GE plan. Among those who will retire in the next year, they will need some supplementary pension to bring them to the \$125 a month pension. This means that these persons will be getting a maximum pension of \$30 a month from GE, regardless of their years of work.

## Papers Praise New Contracts

The New York Times, the Post and the Christian Science Monitor were among the nation's influential papers that praised the guaranteed employment contract.

The principle of the guaranteed annual wage was heartily indorsed as far back as 1948 in a booklet approved by Cardinal Spellman. The booklet, "Case for a Guaranteed Annual Wage," was written by Mary P. Waggonman, formerly an economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and an associate editor of the Monthly Labor Review.

A. H. Raskin, labor analyst of the N. Y. Times, said of the Ford-UAW compact: "The performance of both sides was a heartening exhibition of industrial maturity."

Joseph C. Harsch, Washington correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, said "The wage settlement is one more piece of evidence that the world in which we are living is evolving rapidly away from the calculations of Karl Marx.

"The Ford settlement proved that labor and industry are working out a new social system in the United States."

The New York Post said that "there will be diehards who call young Mr. Ford a 'traitor' to his class. But in the history books he will be remembered for a contribution to the social engineering of this century as momentous as the mechanical wizardry of his grandfather."

## Labor Press Is Vital

A rather outmoded idea still persisting around some parts is that newspaper readers are presented with both sides of all questions and therefore are free to make up their minds. Well, let's take a closer look.

	1920	1930	1940	1954
Circulation	716	2,002	1,002	1,188
Competition Circulation	87,476	79,4	87,4	84
Circulation with Competition	552	268	151	87

From the Cincinnati Enquirer

What this means is that readers in most instances are not getting both sides of anything! What they are getting is a steady one-sided diet of the ideas, biases and pet opinions of a big business operation supported by big-business advertising.

## Local 901, Fort Wayne Votes No Overtime

Like so many other G.E. plants, Fort Wayne has been plagued with layoffs. The members of Local 901 became fed up with the excessive and unnecessary overtime being scheduled under the circumstances.

A mass meeting of the Union's members resulted in an agreement with the Company on overtime. The Company agreed that they will not ask any of the employees to work overtime. Foremen were to notify their groups of the agreement. No overtime will be worked after July 9th.

## Discharge Committee Meets Regularly

Local 301's Discharge Committee meets regularly with representatives of management on disciplinary cases. Miles Moon, Bldg. 40, and Joe Sickinger, Bldg. 273, are the Union representatives in these cases.

Any member involved in such cases should contact their Shop Steward and the Union office immediately.

A few recent instances make it important to note that theft and gambling are cause for immediate dismissal.

## New York's Industrial Climate

Commissioner Edward T. Dickinson of the New York State Department of Commerce, in a speech at Olean this week, revealed the 86 industrial firms had informed the State Department of Commerce of plans to build new factories in New York State this year. In addition, 97 other firms reported that they were expanding their New York State operations, or would expand before the year was out. The estimated cost of the new buildings and additional equipment and facilities, he said, would probably total more than 30 million dollars.

More than 7000 new job opportunities will be created by the new factories and expansions of established firms in the first six months of 1955 according to the Commissioner.

Commenting on the reasons for such expansion he stated, "Technological know-how among management and labor, bolstered by superlative research facilities, is the backbone of New York State industry. New York management is alert and progressive. New York labor is mature and responsible."

"The current expansions and locations are indicative of a growing nation-wide recognition that New York State it is possible, as it is in few other locations, to develop and produce quality, precision products. It is recognition that a New York State location brings the product closer to the market, industrial or consumer. It is recognition that a New York State label implies a tradition of quality, precision and fine workmanship."

Who said they had to move to a more "favorable" industrial climate — and why?

## Report on Audit of Local's Funds

With the change over of Local 301's Office Managers, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, as prescribed under his Constitutional duties, called for an audit of Local 301's cash funds.

The audit was made by the Charles L. Marvin & Co., Public Accountants, 246 State St., Schenectady, N. Y. Their report was verified in the following letter to Bro. Jandreau:

"Mr. Leo Jandreau, Business Agent I.U.E.-C.I.O., Local 301 Liberty St. and Erie Blvd., Schenectady, N. Y.  
Dear Mr. Jandreau:

At your request we audited the cash funds as of June 1, 1955 in the presence of Mr. Marshall White and Mr. Shaffer.

We found the cash funds to be in agreement with the books and records of your Union.

Yours very truly,  
Arthur A. Bianchi"

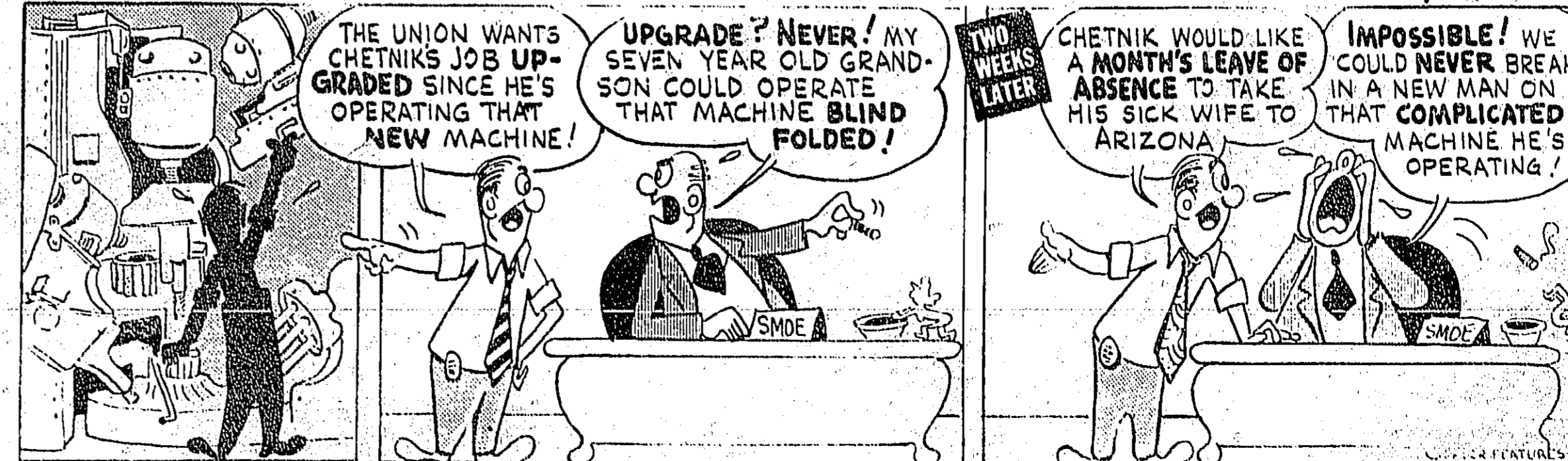
Roy Schaffer, former Assistant Business Agent, is the new Office Manager. He replaces Marshall White who has returned to the shop after expiration of his five year leave of absence as a Union official.

## Foreman Refuses Dispensary Pass

(Continued from page 1)  
severely injured his hand by striking it against a piece of metal while extracting a piece of pipe. When he requested a pass to go to the dispensary for treatment, Foreman Kronk callously refused to issue a pass and insisted he continue at work. In answer to a grievance, Kronk, of course, must admit he is not qualified to make medical decisions, yet in the next paragraph he states, "I did not think that N. Granato's request to go to the dispensary was of such an emergency that he could not wait until his job is finished."

Bro. Granato is still receiving treatment for the injury and a case is being processed at the manager's level in the matter.

## SMOE



# Do You Use Natural Gas?

If you are a user of natural gas, you face a sharp increase in your fuel bills unless the influence of the power lobby is overcome!

Early this month, the House Commerce Committee approved the Harris Natural Gas Bill (HR6645), which would exempt natural gas producers from price regulation by the Federal Government. As the law now stands, the producers are subject to the regulation of the Federal Power Commission.

It is estimated that the oil and gas lobbyists have spent a million and a half dollars in lobbying activities to force this bill on the public. If this bill is passed, it would repeal the

Natural Gas Bill of 1938 and leave householders completely at the mercy of profit greedy owners of a few giant corporations which control the natural gas of this country.

Passage of the bill is a distinct possibility unless the voters let their Congressman know that they oppose the Harris Natural Gas Bill. A close vote is expected so the vote of every Congressman is vital.

Notify your Congressman at the House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C., of your opposition to the Harris Natural Gas Bill (HR6645).

## Injured Workers Must Act Promptly To Protect Their Interests

At a meeting of the Executive Board of Local 301, Leon Novak, the union attorney, reported that many workers lose their rights to compensation benefits because they fail to give prompt notice to their foremen of their injuries or because they fail to file a claim within the time required by the State laws. The Union is always ready to protect a worker's interests by helping him to file his claim promptly and to help him to obtain legal services. Workers must remember that a claim filed promptly after an accident has taken place will protect the worker and his dependents not only for immediate benefits but for the rest of their lives.

To help the worker in filing his claim, a form is printed below which any worker who is injured can fill out as soon as possible after an injury and give to his shop steward or send to the Union Hall. As soon as it is received, Local 301 will arrange to have the worker in by appointment to help him to fill out the necessary papers for filing a claim.

Form to be filled out by Injured Worker to be given to Shop Steward or Mailed to Union Hall.

Name.....  
Address.....  
Building #..... Check #..... Phone No.....  
Date of Accident.....  
Part of Body Injured.....  
Shop Steward.....  
Briefly State How Accident Happened.....

## Army Snoop Pamphlet Is Recalled

Protests by the American Civil Liberties Union have persuaded the Army to withdraw a pamphlet called "How to Spot a Communist." The pamphlet listed such words as "vanguard," "colonialism," "progressive" and "materialist" as clues.

The ACLU, in its protest to Defense Secretary Wilson, charged the pamphlet would set a dangerous precedent in encouraging snooping and brain-washing and could develop and intensify an atmosphere of dangerous distrust among fellow citizens.

The protest declared that private "lynching parties," whether physical, moral or verbal, must not be encouraged, and most emphatically not by a government agency.

The publication, said the ACLU, which is on record strongly against the Communist conspiracy, "could have only one aim—to spur citizens to spy upon one another's language, expressions and associations." The protest said that was both unwise and unnecessary.

The Army, in withdrawing the pamphlet, said "it was not appropriate for the purpose for which it was intended when originally issued by Intelligence personnel."

by KALLAS



## 10,000 New Members:

# 28 ELECTIONS WON IN TWO MONTHS

In the short space of two months, IUE-CIO has won victories in 28 plants. The fabulous growth of the union rolls on with 10,000 new members gained since May 5.

Perhaps the most significant and remarkable growth is that out of the 28 election victories 23 were in unorganized shops.

High point of the period was an important election won in the South. The overwhelming victory at American Safety Razor, Staunton, Va., was in reality a quadruple victory.

Aside from being a major blow at Southern anti-unionism, it stands as a signpost for Northern manufacturers who think they can go to other areas of the country and escape paying decent wages and keep their thumbs down hard on non-union employes.

This is what ASR had hoped to do in Virginia but enlightened workers there fooled the company but good. Despite a vicious campaign put on by the IAM-AFL in collusion with the company, IUE-CIO won hands down.

ASR had formerly been in Brooklyn, N. Y., where UE had represented the workers. UE could not even get on the ballot in Virginia. Why? — because they had lost millions of dollars in severance pay for Brooklyn employees since they chose to make a party issue of it instead of trying to look out for the workers' welfare.

In two other skirmishes with the dying UE in Fitchburg, Mass., and Brockville, Ontario, Canada, IUE-CIO Local 290 and IUE-CIO Local 510 beat off UE's faltering raid technique with ease.

Workers at a shop in Centralia, Missouri and at Garland, Texas,

in the rapidly growing Dallas area, also voted to join IUE-CIO.

IUE-CIO's impressive victory at Otis Elevator, Harrison, N. J., a plant long unorganized, brings to an end the Otis company's favorite plot of playing off its Otis Works against its Harrison Works.

Workers in Canada's longest assembly line at RCA, Prescott, Ontario, though bitterly harassed by a multitude of firing brought about by collusion between the company and IBEW-AFL, stuck to their guns and are now IUE-CIO Local 523. Our union now has 10 RCA locals.

Victory at the Sylvania Plant in Fullerton, California, brings to a total of eight the Sylvania shops IUE-CIO represents.

Two new bargaining units have been added to the Westinghouse chain, thus bringing up a bigger gun to bear during forthcoming negotiations.

—Another GE service unit, this one in Appleton, Wisconsin, has joined the ranks.

Workers in three plants north of the border are helping swell the ranks—one of them having formerly been under the thumb of the UE.

And so it goes. From Texas and from Massachusetts, from Canada and Virginia, from California and New York, from Missouri and Minnesota, from New Jersey and from Iowa, electrical and machine workers flock under the banner of the IUE-CIO, largest union in the electrical industry and still rapidly growing—doing a job it promised to do—organizing the unorganized.

## Cognetta Addresses New Citizens

At the invitation of Mrs. Charles Lawyer, Jr., of the Advisory Committee on Americanization, Dept. of Education, President James Cognetta spoke at a reception for over 100 new citizens last week.

The reception for the new citizens was held after Naturalization Court at the Elks Club, Friday morning, July 8th.

In his remarks Bro. Cognetta stressed labor's role in the welfare and prosperity of our nation. Numerous city, county and school officials extended their greetings and congratulations to the group.

## Business Paper Lauds Pensions

An unexpected source of support for company pension plans for employes turned up recently when the Journal of Commerce, businessman's daily, reported outcome of a survey it had conducted.

The survey concluded that company pension plans contribute to a more stable work force by cutting labor turnover and job jumping. Also:

- Most workers prefer to work where there is a pension plan.
- However, employes often are not kept fully informed about company benefit programs.
- The average worker who retires plans to get another job or move to a place where living costs are lower. (Thus intimating that most pension plans are geared too low.)

## Local 329 Thanks 301 For Support

The following letter was received by Local 301 acknowledging their support to IUE Local 329 in their bitter battle with the Dollinger Corporation of Rochester, N. Y. IUE Local 301 members furnished financial assistance during their struggle and also lent their support on the picket line.

"LOCAL No. 329  
IUE-CIO

June 27, 1955

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The long 22 week strike against the union busting Dollinger Corporation of Rochester, New York, has been settled by Local #329, IUE-CIO.

Some of the major gains won by the Local's militant action includes:

1. 12 cents across the board wage increase.
2. Good Friday as the seventh paid holiday.
3. Maintenance of membership clause.
4. Check-off.
5. Plant-wide seniority.
6. Automatic progression.
7. Improved grievance procedure.
8. Leave of absence clause.

The above settlement and gains could never have been realized without the financial assistance we received from your organization.

The officers and members of Local No. 329, IUE-CIO wish to take this opportunity to express their gratitude and thanks for your support in our long struggle with the Dollinger Corporation.

Fraternally and gratefully yours,

Dale Kinton, President

## Constitution Comm. To Meet on Changes

IUE Local 301's Constitution Committee will meet at Union Hall, 121 Erie Blvd., on Monday, August 1st, at 1:00 p.m.

The Committee will review recommendations for proposed changes in the Local 301's Constitution for action at the August membership meeting.

Members of the Committee are: William Kelly, Bldg. 273, Chairman; William Linka, Bldg. 273;

Stanley Aldhous, Bldg. 49; Anthony Campriello, Bldg. 52; Fay Hildreth, Bldg. 59; Joseph Kernaghan, Bldg. 18, and Anthony Esposito, Bldg. 53.

## No Paper July 29th

Because of the number of members on vacation at that time, there will be no issue of IUE Local 301 News on July 29th.

The next regular issue will be on August 12, 1955.

## High School Students Feel Labor Has Done Most for Living Standards

A recent survey conducted for G.E. by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, N. J., showed that despite big business propaganda, high school students know the facts of life.

Among the 1143 high school students interviewed in an industrial county, G.E. found to its dismay that the students gave high praise to organized labor and did not hold as high an opinion of big business.

One typical question asked was, "Which has done the most to improve living standards in our country?" 56% of the students gave the credit to organized labor! Only 16% felt business management was responsible; 14% said the Government; 14% gave no opinion.

Local 301 IUE-CIO  
JOINT MEMBERS  
and STEWARDS

**MEETING**

Monday, July 18, 1955

2nd Shift—1:00 P.M.

(Before Work)

1st and 3rd Shifts—

Monday, July 18, 1955

7:30 P.M.

**KRUEGER'S HALL**

LIBERTY and SOUTH FERRY STREETS

EXECUTIVE BOARD  
LOCAL 301, IUE-CIO

# ISSUE MISSING