

## Union Protests to Workmen's Compensation Board on New Procedures Set Up

In a letter sent to Mary Donlon, Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board, on October 13, the Union protested the new procedures established by the Compensation Board which will jeopardize claimants' possibilities of getting full protection under the law.

The Union pointed out to Miss Donlon that the newly set up procedures established a serious detriment to the benefits that may be received by claimants because the cases can now be closed without further hearings if the attending physician has reported that in his opinion the injured person has no permanent defects from his or her injury.

The Union went on to say that in our opinion such a procedure is inadequate and fails to afford justice to the injured claimants, because, in the first instance many physicians engaged in private practice do not relate the individual's condition as to whether he will have a permanent disability and is entitled to certain considerations under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Physicians have in the past concluded that the patient's reasonable recovery from an injury leads them to believe that there is no permanent result from this injury. On the other hand, many cases show where there was sufficient restriction that an award was warranted under the law. The following is an excerpt from the letter sent to the Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board:

"In the first instance, I am informed, many physicians, engaged in private practice, do not relate the question of permanency in schedule type of cases as it was intended by the Workmen's Compensation Act. To such practitioners a reasonable recovery from an injury leads them to conclude that there is no permanent result from this injury. On the other hand, in many instances, there is sufficient restriction or loss of flexion still remaining to warrant an award to be made to the claimant for such a loss. In such instances, a State Examiner is in a better position than the private practitioner to evaluate the loss, if any. Secondly, a particularly aggravating problem arises where injured claimants are treated by their employers' physicians. In such instances, a statement made by the employer's physician to the effect that there is no permanency as a result of an accident creates a problem in labor relations which is not easily overcome, unless an examination is made at a hearing by an impartial doctor, such as a State Examiner, to confirm or reverse the opinion of the employer's physician. As a matter of fact, we have already found instances where the Company's physicians have reported no permanency from an accident, when further investigation disclosed a permanency. The new procedure of offering to close the case on motion, where the claimant is informed that he need not be present, puts an added burden upon the claimant and either prejudices his claim altogether or requires him to adduce further medical evidence from a private physician to overcome the existing report."

The Union requested the Board re-evaluate its procedure and reconsider its present position on closing such cases.

## New NLRB Decision Could Undermine Future Union Organizing Campaigns

Washington — In its rapid-fire campaign to rewrite the Labor-Management Relations Act, the National Labor Relations Board has issued a new ruling which may yank the heart out of union organizing campaigns in the future.

The new decision upholds the right of an employer to fire workers acting jointly or in "concerted activities for their mutual aid and protection" if they violate any plant rules in the process.

The case was filed by Local 442 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters, AFL, against the Terry Poultry Company of Jasper, Ga.

In a vigorous dissent, the two-man minority on the Board, Abe Murdock and Ivar H. Peterson, charged:

"In our opinion, the majority's decision departs from established precedents and reflects a serious inroad into the statutory rights of employees to engage in concerted activity for their mutual aid and protection."

The three-man majority on the Board justified the firing on the basis that the two workers, while presenting a grievance against the foreman to the plant superintendent, had left the plant without telling either the foreman or their fellow employees.

Protected by Act  
Murdock and Peterson countered that Section 7 of the Taft-Hartley Act provides among other things, that employees "shall have the right . . . to engage . . . concerted activities for the purpose of . . . mutual aid or protection."

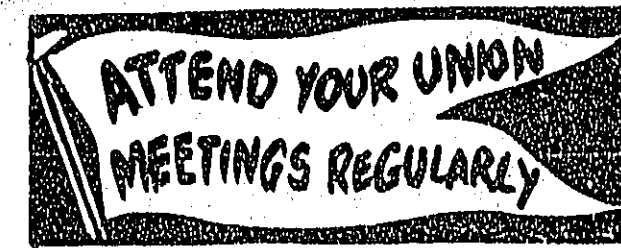
In addition, they said, Section 9 (a) of the Act specifically provides that any group of employees "shall have the right at any time to present grievances to their employer and to have such grievances adjusted."

"In recognition of these rights," Murdock and Peterson said, "both the Board and the courts have repeatedly held that the conduct of employees in concertedly stopping work to present a grievance con-



**IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS**  
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,  
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY  
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee  
President.....James J. Cognetta  
Vice President.....Joseph Alois  
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitback  
Recording Secretary.....Miles Moon  
Ass't Recording Secretary.....Rudy Risland  
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani  
Business Agent.....Leo Jandreau  
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.



cerning wages, hours and/or conditions of employment is within the protection of the Act for which they may not be discharged.

"And this statutory right is secured to employees whether takes the form of a strike or other temporary work stoppage to present a grievance."

The three-man majority included Chairman Guy Farmer, Phillip Ray Rodgers, and Albert C. Beesen. All were appointed by President Eisenhower and all have joined in previous decisions which have brought strong protests from both the AFL and CIO. Murdock and Peterson were appointed by former President Truman.

The General Counsel of the Board, George Bott, Jr., filed exceptions to the majority decision, too, holding that because the two workers, Lassic Petty and Geneva Tinsley, left their work places to present a grievance to management concerning their working conditions, they were engaged in protected concerted activities and therefore were not vulnerable to the discharge.

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 1 — No. 31

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

October 22, 1954

## G. E. Profits, Unemployment Increase!

### Delegates Elected for District Three



The five delegates who will represent IUE Local 301 in District 3 were elected at last Monday's membership meeting. They will attend a district convention in Syracuse on October 29 and 30, when a new president and secretary will be elected for the district. Pictured left to right are: William Stewart, Bldg. 273; Phil Cognetta, Bldg. 52; Ethel Farman, Bldg. 24; William Mastriani, Bldg. 73A; James Brown, Bldg. 273. (2nd shift.)

### U.E. Still Refuses To Release Funds

At a meeting last week representatives of National U.E. demanded \$150,000 of the Union funds of local G.E. workers before they would drop the pending court actions that are tying up the local Union's finances including the Union's Building Fund.

The funds consist of approximately \$172,000 held in escrow by General Electric and about \$130,000 in Building Funds and property along with the monies that were in the General Fund prior to March 15 in the approximate amount of \$85,000.

The National U.E. would have normally received Per Capita taxes if there had not been a switch in affiliation, and this Per Capita would have amounted to approximately \$95,000 provided the National U.E. was entitled to taxes up to and including the July 1954 check-off. However, National U.E. is not interested in confining the discussion to what they have lost in Per Capita—they want \$50,000 over and above the money they would have been entitled to.

U.E. is taking advantage of the delay which usually accompanies court cases, and, likewise, they are

(Continued on Page 2)

### General Electric Earnings Again Set Record

Just like a broken record, again last week the announcement came from General Electric of record earnings of \$140,691,000 for the first nine months of 1954. This an increase of 20 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

President Cordiner admitted this record increase was achieved despite a seven per cent decrease in sales for the same period.

This announcement follows directly after the Co.'s arbitrary position in National Negotiations, a position bolstered by National UE's sellout, and other small unions grabbing for the crumbs. The Co. had flatly refused to consider their ability to pay. They had refused to consider their responsibility in creating mass unemployment through their Decentralization Policy and runaway shops.

Instead they can now sit back gleefully and watch the vicious cycle toward unemployment begin. Less sales plus more profits equals less work. And of course the result can only be long lines again waiting at employment offices—and their opportunity to attempt to break the bargaining strength of Unions.

Realizing clearly the Co.'s objective, the leadership of IUE proposed the resolution "No Contract—No Work For 1955" adopted by this year's annual IUE-CIO's annual convention. With the vast majority of GE workers united in IUE-CIO the Co. has been served notice — halt this vicious cycle toward unemployment — or IUE members are prepared to fight for their rights in 1955.

### UE Hides the Truth on Unity at Square D Strike in Detroit

The UAW-CIO issued a statement supporting Square D strikes in Detroit. The statement made it clear that UAW-CIO was supporting the striking workers—NOT UE! The UE has boasted of this unity in an effort to obtain respectability. But here is the way the UAW-CIO statement actually read—(Portions in bold type are the portions UE does not quote.)

Statement follows:

"The Square D situation is a classic one wherein the company refuses to meet its responsibilities, the Communists exploit that company irresponsibility, and the company in turn exploits the 'Communist situation' it helped create.

"We in the UAW-CIO believes that this dispute will be settled only through a cessation of the company's strike-breaking campaign and honest effort to meet the needs of the workers through honest collective bargaining.

(Continued on Page 4)

Detroit Sunday Times \*  
Part 1, Page 6—Sept. 12, 1954

Paul Silver, president of Detroit Steel Products Local 351, UAW-CIO, who has been one of the leaders at the strike scene, said at least 40 locals of the UAW have contacted him in the last three days.

#### Predicts Big Turnout

He predicted Monday would see the largest turnout of pickets yet.

"We are not supporting the UAW leadership. We are supporting the 1,200 rank-and-file members who are on strike."

### HAZY HERB



by KALLAS

Copyright © 1954, Kallas Studios



## Local 301 Guide M. Bagnato Swears In New Shop Stewards



## IUE Victories Mount Steadily

The following are just a few of the recent victories of IUE-CIO against two enemies of organized labor — unorganized shops and U.E.:

**Brantford, Ontario:** IUE-CIO won certification here for 300 employees in a new Westinghouse plant. UE's petition was thrown out by the Ontario Labor Board.

**Nutley, N. J.:** 700 salaried and clerical employees of Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation voted unanimously at a membership meeting to join the IUE-CIO Union that represents the 4,000 production workers at the FT&R Nutley plant.

**Newark Rivet:** Formerly UE Local 437.

**Elox Corp., Detroit, Mich.:** Formerly unorganized.

**Bausch & Lomb, Buffalo, N. Y.:** Formerly unorganized.

**N. E. Carbide Tool, Cambridge, Mass.:** Formerly unorganized.

**G.E. Service Shop, L. I. City, N. Y.:** The last G.E. plant of U.E. District 4 voted 29 for IUE against only 2 for U.E. to join IUE-CIO on Oct. 8th. This shop disaffiliated from U.E. and affiliated with IUE-CIO on the same day Schenectady Local 301 acted.

## Just To Clear The Record

It is not G.E.'s Charles E. Wilson who is to be credited with the recent dog story on unemployment. He was far less subtle and merely said let 'em eat beans.

It was General Motor's Charles E. Wilson who used the dog story to illustrate that he felt workers should become transients at the whim and fancy of big industry, leaving their homes, families, communities, schools, etc. behind them.

Enough has been written already of G.M.'s Wilson's foot in mouth disease. One point has not generally been made however which all sportsmen recognized immediately—

The bird dog does do the hunting—but it's his owner that does the eating.

## Union Lawyer's Time Schedule Explained for Members

The number of compensation cases handled by the union's lawyer for injured members of Local 301, is constantly increasing. These cases not only require preparation for handling in court, but in many instances, briefs have to be written, interviews with various persons have to be held and in addition, as many as 50 or more cases per day must be attended to in court.

With such a volume of work, the union's lawyer is compelled to work out a schedule to give proper attention to each and every injured worker.

Workers who are members of the union and who wish to report a new accident or to file a claim for the first time through the union's lawyer, can do so at any time and without the need to make an appointment. Such a worker may go to the lawyer's office in Union Hall at any time between the hours of 8 A.M. and 5 P.M.

Workers whose cases are coming up for a hearing in court will be notified by mail by the lawyer and will be given an appointment for a conference, if the lawyer thinks that such a conference is necessary. If such a worker does not receive an appointment letter, then

### Local 301 IUE-CIO SHOP STEWARDS MEETING

2nd Shift

Monday, Nov. 1, 1954

1:00 P.M.

(Before Work)

1st and 3rd Shifts

Monday, Nov. 1, 1954

7:30 P.M.

LOCAL 301 HALL  
ERIE BLVD. & LIBERTY ST.

Reports of Committees  
Regular Order of Business

EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
LOCAL 301 IUE-CIO

## UE Still Refuses To Release Funds

(Continued from page 1)

trying to curtail the local Union's program by holding up the funds which are greatly needed in order to function properly. In the case of the Lynn G.E. workers (Local 201), after they left the U.E. and affiliated to the IUE-CIO, National U.E. obtained court orders that froze the funds and tied up the property. The court appointed administrators of the funds and the Union building. The funds were finally depleted and the building was padlocked, remaining in that status for several years. U.E. received no benefits from this action and deprived G.E. workers in Lynn of their finances and Union property. The UE's attitude towards G.E. workers is exemplified by their actions in Lynn, Mass., and they may have the same plans for the Schenectady G.E. workers.

The \$150,000 steal which the National U.E. is making upon the Schenectady G.E. workers has been rejected by us. We do not think the National Union has any just cause to place demands on funds belonging to local Unions. If the National U.E. continues to make these unreasonable financial demands upon the G.E. workers in Schenectady, there will be no chance of working out an equitable solution outside of court. The alternative will be to let the courts finally decide, which will take considerable time and will result in terrific expense and financial loss to the Schenectady G.E. workers as well as to the National U.E.



the lawyer will see the worker in court at the hearing which has been scheduled. The worker receives a notice from the Compensation Board as to the date of such a hearing and the lawyer is notified at the same time.

Workers who wish to speak to the lawyer about pending cases should telephone his secretary for an appointment. Dropping in without an appointment often may mean a needless trip because the lawyer may be in court at the time or may be seeing many other workers by pre-arrangement.

In all cases of special emergency a union member may call the lawyer's office at any time.

## Transfer Rate Increased



Anna Leach, Bldg. 269, shows the check for over \$57.00 to her Shop Steward, Helen Nichols, who filed the grievance that resulted in this settlement.

When Sister Leach was transferred for lack of work on her Class "C" Bench Assembly job she did not receive the proper starting rate on her new job according to Contract, Article X-3a(4). The case had to be processed to the management level where it was agreed to make retroactive adjustment from 5/17/54.



## Toolmaker Wins Shift Transfer

When two Class "A" Toolmakers in Bldg. 273 retired recently, the resulting 1st shift openings were filled in disregard of shift transfer requests from 2nd shift Class "A" Toolmakers.

A written grievance submitted by Shop Steward Wm. Sherin succeeded in placing Bro. S. Michiewicz on 1st shift.

### IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301 REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee  
President.....James J. Connetta  
Vice President.....Joseph Aleli  
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitbeck  
Recording Secretary.....Miles Moon  
Ass't Recording Secretary.....Rudy Risland  
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani  
Business Agent.....Leo Landreau  
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

## Survey to Determine Shop Representation

Executive Board Members have been notified to be prepared to make any necessary changes in shop representation.

According to the Constitution each Board member must survey his section to determine the number of Shop Stewards that are necessary to give the members adequate service.

Article XVI — Sect. A, states: "During the month of October each year, the Executive Board shall survey each section and determine the number of Shop Stewards for the ensuing year. Except by special Board action, no steward may have less than 25 people under his jurisdiction."

Section B states: "A Shop Steward must have the approval of the Board to represent members outside his or her group working under another foreman". The Constitution limits shop steward changes just prior to Executive Board election.

Article XV, Sect. C: "Board Members shall not appoint shop stewards to fill vacancies or otherwise within 30 days prior to election of Board Members unless they receive approval of a majority of the Executive Board."

## IUE Local 301 Discount Plans Are Boon to Christmas Shopping

Members should keep in mind Local 301's discount plans as they start to make up their holiday shopping lists.

The Tri State Mail Order Co. offers substantial discounts as high as 40% on items such as jewelry, housewares, appliances, furniture, power tools, cameras and thousands of other worthwhile items too numerous to mention. Catalogs, along with order forms and a Special Discount Price List are available for 25c at the Union office. Or you can send for a catalog by mail to: Tri State Mail Order Co., Box 1026, Schenectady, N. Y.

Bi-Mor Government Surplus Stores, 232 State St., Schenectady and Amsterdam offer a 15% discount to all 301 members shopping in their stores. (Cards available from your Shop Steward. Bi-Mor handles such items as sports clothes, camping equipment, shoes and hundreds of other practical items.

Take advantage of these savings!

## I. C. Committee Delivers Data

Chairman Wm. Mastriani and Joe Whitbeck, members of the Industrial Control Committee To Save Jobs, last week delivered additional information and data on layoffs to the Chairman of the Mayor's Committee, Father Finn.

This information had been requested by the Mayor's Committee at a meeting Oct. 11, 1954 when the plans of General Electric to transfer the Industrial Control work out of Schenectady were discussed.

This is only one of the steps taken by the Union Committee to save jobs in Schenectady. Further reports on their activities and progress will be forthcoming.

## NOTICE

### ALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

The regular meeting of the Executive Board will be held at Union Hall

Monday, Oct. 25, 1954

7:30 P.M.

## Local 301 Dollar Stretchers



See Your Shop Steward

# IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

Bldg. 269: The group on the wiring job in Shop Steward F. Siudy's section protest the 2.02 AER as compared to rates of similar jobs in the plant. Union demands increase in rate and application of proper table.

Bldg. 24: Larry Di Lallo, TRMO C1 Milling Machine operator, with 14 years of service, has been laid off due to lack of work. Union demands comparable suitable offer for placement.

Bldg. 40: Wm. Smi, C1 B Milling Machine operator, was laid off for lack of work in Bldg. 46. Since the job he accepted in Bldg. 40 was misrepresented Union demands proper placement.

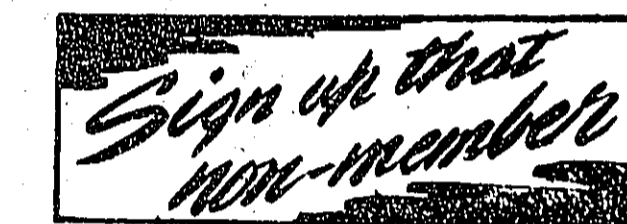
Bldg. 42: Jos. Sollohug, C1 C Tallyman, is performing work beyond his classification. Union demands reclassification to C1 B Stockkeeper and rate increase in line with the work he is performing.

Bldg. 46: A. McFarlane, C1 A Test operator protests discrimination shown by foreman Furry in upgrading a short-service operator. Union demands Management investigate and correct this situation.

Bldg. 40: J. Friday in Steward Morrissey's group, although classified as a C1 C Stockkeeper, is performing the full job of C1 B. Union demands reclassification to C1 B and proper rate increase.

Bldg. 285: J. Leighton, C1 D Test Operator, feels the work he is performing is C1 C. Shop Steward W. Stutz has filed a grievance to reclassify to C1 C with proper increase in rate.

Bldg. 12: Dorothy Ten Have was transferred from her job because of an allergy. The varnish which caused the allergy has since been changed and her physician now states she is able to work with the present varnish used. Steward A. Durante has filed a case for transfer back to her former job.



## Grievance Adds Help



Board Member S. Lupi and Shop Steward L. Hopkins are shown discussing their grievance to halt unwarranted layoffs in the stockroom personnel.

The Union representatives pointed out that in fact the group were being asked to work overtime and the production workers were being forced to wait for material because of inadequate service. Supervision agreed to recall one employee back and another was added after further processing of the case in Bldg. 41.

## Extended Break-in Won

When H. Eckert, Bldg. 60, was transferred from a 1" Hand Screw Machine to a 1 1/2" machine, supervision insisted he would be guaranteed the AER of the job for only one week.

Shop Steward Morton Milkin's filed a case for 3 weeks' break-in at guaranteed AER which management agreed to pay after the case was processed at the management level.

## Local 301 Sponsors Hockey Team

Following approval of the Executive Board, the membership at last Monday's meeting voted to sponsor a hockey team for the 1954-55 season.

The Committee selected by the Board, composed of William Mastriani, Larry Gebo and William Kelly, will meet with Director Jack Curran at the RPI Field House in Troy to iron out such details as the scheduling of games.

The Committee has also contacted IUE Local 201 in Lynn, Mass. as to the possibility of a special contest between their team and Local 301's.