

## BRIEFS FILED IN ARBITRATION CASE

The Arbitration case on the check-off revocations, on which the hearing was held last April, briefs were filed by the Union last Thursday at the request of the arbitrator.

In a 15 page brief, summing up Local 301's case, David Scribner pointed out that the employees affected were included in five categories:

1. Employees who were refused the opportunity to work and went home when they were advised to do so by the Foreman and were not paid for the balance of the shift.

2. Employees who were denied work but continued to make themselves available during the balance of the shift but were not paid.

3. Employees who were permitted to work and did work but did not get paid for their work. This category includes employees to whom work was actually assigned by their Foremen.

4. Piece workers who were permitted to and did work, and were paid for their work except that the payroll adjustment to which they were normally entitled was deducted.

5. Stewards on the Second Shift who came back to work after delivering the revocation forms but were not permitted to work and were not paid for the balance of the shift.

## DID YOU READ "HIGH TREASON"?

Over 10,000 copies have been sold to U. E. members throughout the country. We have a limited supply at the Union office. This \$3.00 best selling book by Albert E. Kahn can be purchased by Union members for 50c per copy.

## DISTRICT F. E. P. C. COMMITTEES TO MEET

Buffalo, N. Y. — In accordance with U. E. District 3 decision at its last meeting, arrangements are being made to hold a conference of all U. E. Local F. E. P. C. committee members in District 3.

The one day conference will give special attention to the fight against discrimination of any kind in hiring, upgrading, wage rates, etc. for women employees and minority groups of all kinds.

## MEMBERSHIP STILL GROWING

Marshall White, who is in charge of the U. E. business office, reports the check-off for June well over 13,000.

He says, the first week in June brought in 200 more new members to be added to the July check-off.

## Changes in Unemployment Insurance Law in Effect As of June 4

A number of changes have been made in the Unemployment Insurance Law of New York State. Some of these changes went into effect on June 4, 1951. Still others will go into effect on July 2, 1951. Finally, there are other changes which will go into effect on December 31, 1951. This first article will cover the changes which went into effect on June 4.

Beginning June 4, a worker who is receiving unemployment insurance benefits may earn up to \$30 a week instead of the previous limit of \$24.00 per week and still receive credit for his days of unemployment during that week. This is a permanent change.

Furthermore, temporarily only between June 4 - June 30, 1951 the benefit year has been extended for two additional weeks of benefits making 28 weeks of benefits instead of 26 for this benefit year. This means that any person who has the necessary earnings in 1950 can file a claim for the additional two weeks. This will automatically establish a new benefit year on July 2 for anyone who is receiving benefits in June.

Unemployed workers who apply for unemployment insurance from now on will have to bring a form from their last place of employment, and which their employer must furnish them, known as a Record of Employment. In order to prevent delays in getting unemployment insurance in case of lay-off, workers should also be careful to keep a record of their weekly earnings, and better still their check stubs.

The unemployment insurance office will give applicants for benefits a new type of form to fill out. Members of the UE can bring this form to union hall where they will get assistance in filling these out from the union lawyer, Leon Novak.

Articles on further changes in the Unemployment Insurance Law will follow.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday - June 11  
7:30 p.m.

## WIDOW OF UE MEMBER WINS COMPENSATION AWARD

Walter Bethka, a UE member employed in Building 15, was injured in 1950 when he was struck on the nose. A compensation claim was filed on his behalf by our union attorney. Before the case could come up for a hearing the worker died from a condition which had nothing to do with the accident or his work. Normally, it is left to a State doctor to report what sort of a scar was left by an injury. Here the worker died before he could be examined by a doctor. Our union lawyer brought the widow into court where she testified that her husband, before he died, had a permanent scar on the nose as a result of the accident. She was awarded \$150.00 by the referee.

## CHARLES (SAM) KRAL IN HOSPITAL

Sam Kral, member of U. E. Local 301, employed in Bldg. 258--Gas Plant, was severely burned in an accident, which took place in his home last Monday. He is in Saint Clare's Hospital critically ill. The shop steward has made a request for blood donations from Union members. Four U.E. members have volunteered blood for Sam. Type B is needed. However, the hospital will accept other types as a replacement.

## VACATIONS AND REPRESENTATION

Shop Stewards and Executive Board members have been urged to assign substitutes during vacation period.

Where there are department shut-downs, there will not be a need for a shop steward to have a substitute, but when vacations are scheduled over the year, a substitute should be appointed. The Executive Board member can call the Union office giving name, check number and address of the substitute, along with the temporary period the regular steward will be absent. We will make the necessary arrangements with local management for recognition of the substitute.

## I. E. U. ATTORNEY SUES I. U. E.

IUE-CIO attorney, Richard Lipsitz, is suing James Carey and the Secretary of the I.U.E. for payment of money owed to Lipsitz for services rendered. Attorney Lipsitz, who is from Buffalo, N. Y., represented the IUE-CIO in that area.

Rumor has it that two Albany attorneys are in the same boat.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 9 — No. 12

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, June 22, 1951

## U. E. 301 Legislative Committee Reports To Executive Board

At the last meeting of the Executive Board the U.E. Local 301 Legislative Committee recommended that the Local sponsor a campaign in the community to roll back prices.

The committee's report, given by Brashear, Chairman, pointed out that prices on all commodities have increased terrifically over and above wage increases and are still climbing higher due to lack of proper price control.

A large percentage of the average worker's wages is spent on food, clothing and shelter. The fixed income groups, particularly the pensioners, are the hardest hit as a result of the present inflation. The hourly rated day workers are feeling the pinch continually.

The committee cited a number of specific items, such as Maxwell House coffee, which sells in Schenectady for 89c per lb., and in St. Petersburg, Florida, for 59c per lb. While this radical difference exists in standard food items, the committee pointed out that the quality of the merchandise purchased in Schenectady has depreciated while prices on the same articles have risen.

The Legislative Committee is in the process of accumulating more specific data on other items to prove their case that while prices generally are too high all over the country, there seem to be higher prices in Schenectady than other communities.

The committee has been authorized by the Executive Board to enlarge itself to properly conduct the campaign, and has made a request for volunteers from the membership.

The committee will talk to leading merchants in town and the City Council and Board of Supervisors in hopes of soliciting their assistance in bringing the prices down in Schenectady.

## SALARIED WORKERS STOP WORK

A small group of salaried workers who have signed up with the U.E. had their first test of acting collectively to straighten out an unsatisfactory working condition.

After signing up 100% in the U.E.,

## 9c Increase Approved Effective March 15th

### Vacation Plan Modified

The management has notified the Union that in those instances where overtime schedules are temporarily reduced during the months of July and August for reasons other than lack of material or reduced production requirements, vacation payments will be determined in accordance with the present eight weeks' rule, but the rule will be modified so that vacation payments that would normally be on a six day basis will not be reduced because of this change in the schedule of hours.

The period of reduced overtime operations during July and August will be excluded in calculating vacation payments unless it is to the advantage of individuals or groups of employees, who may have worked emergency overtime during this period. This means that if an employee takes his vacation during the first two weeks in September and has been working five days in July and August but six days in May and June, he will receive vacation pay based on six days rather than five days. The same will be true of an individual taking his vacation in July or August.

## Gem Strike Ends — Win 11c an Hour

The employees of American Safety Razor, who went on strike for higher wages, settled with the company for a general wage increase of 11 cents an hour.

A committee of strikers appeared before the Executive Board a few weeks ago requesting support for the strike. Local 301 donated \$100.00 at that time.

## Expect Rate to be Added June 22

The W.S.B. approved the U.E.-G.E. Agreement, dated May 17, 1951, containing a nine cents per hour increase effective March 15, 1951. The nine cents is to be added to all day work rates and day work job rates and all salary rates and salaried job rates. For incentive workers nine cents per hour shall be added to the incentive earnings as a pay roll adjustment. It is expected that the 9 cents will be added to the rates in the Schenectady plant of the Company, June 22, 1951.

The Union office has been advised by the local management that the retroactive money, due under the Agreement since March 15th, will be paid in all departments by July 20th. In the smaller departments having separate pay rolls the back money will be paid prior to this date.

The 9 cents does not close out the Union's right to fight for inequities in day work rates or women's rates on a national or local basis. We have been informed by the U.E. Washington office that the reason for the delay in securing the approval was due to the fact that Emil Rieve, president of the Textile Workers Union, C.I.O., and representative of the C.I.O. on the Wage Stabilization Board, in his capacity as a board member, insisted on holding up action on approval as long as possible. He was urged to do this by James Carey. An official memorandum had been sent by Rieve to the various staff officials on the W.S.B. insisting that no action be taken on the nine cents approval. It was only after U.E. uncovered these facts and protested to the board members that immediate action was secured. A delegation of U.E.-G.E. representatives visited two public members of the Wage Stabilization Board on Tuesday, June 12th, at which time the delegation demanded immediate action on the nine cents approval.

they went to the supervisor and reported a couple of grievances that had been pending for a long time. While they talked about their complaint, nobody was working. The supervisor made the necessary adjustments, satisfactory to all.



## Workmen's Compensation

### Benefits for Injured Workers

(This is the tenth in a series of articles on Workmen's Compensation written by Leon Novak, the Union's lawyer.)

#### The Injured Worker Upon his Return to Work

In the last issue I pointed out that a worker who is losing time from work after an accident cannot continue to get the maximum rate of \$32 a week if he has begun to improve from his injuries to the point where he can do some work. It is natural, therefore, for such a worker to try to get back to his own job, if his health will permit it, or if his old job is too strenuous, to some lighter work.

Even after his return to work, however, the worker may still be having trouble as a result of his injuries. Of course, in such a case the worker has a right to medical treatment until he recovers from the effects of his injuries or until the doctors discharge him. On several occasions, I have pointed out that such a worker can continue his treatment with his own doctor. The doctor's bills will be paid by the Company so long as the doctor files medical reports as to the treatment. There are workers who prefer to get their treatment at the Company's hospital. In either event, whether a worker is treated by his own doctor or at the G.E. Hospital, his compensation case will be kept open until we are certain that he does not need further treatment.

#### Reduced Earnings

Another matter which I have written about before but which deserves repetition is the problem of reduced earnings. If the injured worker who was forced to stay away from work for a period of time has improved sufficiently to return to lighter work, he may be earning less at his new job than he did before he was hurt. In an instance of this kind, his case is kept open both to give him a chance to get medical treatment and also to have awards made to him of two-



thirds of the loss in pay which the worker may be suffering.

#### Cash Settlements

I have written on the subject of cash settlements a number of times but have found that there is still some misunderstanding as to when a worker is entitled to a cash settlement after an accident.

In no instance is a worker entitled, under the law, to any cash settlement (as distinguished from weekly payments for lost time from work) for any injury which has not left him permanently disabled in part or in whole.

However, even if the injury is a permanent one, cash settlements are not paid under the law for every type of injury. There are certain types of injuries, where, if the results are permanent, there is made a cash award. These include injuries such as permanent damage to an arm or leg or parts of an arm or leg. It includes permanent damage to the eyesight or hearing and also to facial disfigurements (scars on the face). Cash awards are not made for injuries which result in damage to the back, to heart strains, lungs, headaches, skin diseases and numerous others. In these types of injuries instead of a cash settlement,

which would then close out the case, a worker receives instead weekly compensation for as long as he is disabled or as long as he is losing part of his usual pay because of his condition. It will be seen from this that the cost to the Company can be greater over a longer period of time where no cash settlement is provided for by law, then where the law requires a cash settlement.

I have felt it important to review this information because every day I see workers who are disappointed when they learn that they cannot get a cash settlement for certain types of permanent injuries. Finally, when they realize that a cash settlement would be a loss to them because the total weekly payments made or to be made to them in the future will exceed the cash settlement, then they understand that we are obtaining for them the maximum benefits which the law allows.

In any event, the first aim of an injured worker is to get full recovery from injuries as quickly as possible and only where he is unfortunate enough to have a permanent injury, to obtain compensation benefits to make up for his reduced employability.

## Unemployment Insurance Law Changes

A number of changes in the Unemployment Insurance Law take effect on July 2, 1951. Some of these will be discussed here.

In the first instance, the rights to unemployment benefits after July 2 depend not on the amount of money you earned before as under the old law, but primarily on how long you worked in the 52 weeks before filing your claim. The new requirement is that you must have had some work (in insured employment) in each of at least 20 of the 52 weeks which ended the week before you filed the claim.

This new requirement, on the whole, is harmful to large groups of working people. While it does not seriously affect workers in the electrical industry, it has a very serious and harmful effect upon seasonal workers, as for example in the needle-trades and garment industries. The unions which have organized those industries were caught unawares by this new amendment because it was passed suddenly and without any prior publicity with the result that they must now try to change a law which is already in effect.

Another change which was made was the setting up of a shifting benefit year for each individual worker. Previously, all workers had the same benefit year during which they could get compensation. If their unemployment took place in the latter part of a benefit year they could have exhausted their rights to further benefits during that year and have to wait for the new benefit year (starting in June of every year) for new benefits. The new amendment, your individual benefit year begins the Monday after the day you file a valid claim and runs for the next 52 weeks.

(Further articles by Leon Novak, our union lawyer, on amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Law will be run in future issues of the union's paper.)

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 2nd

Union Headquarters

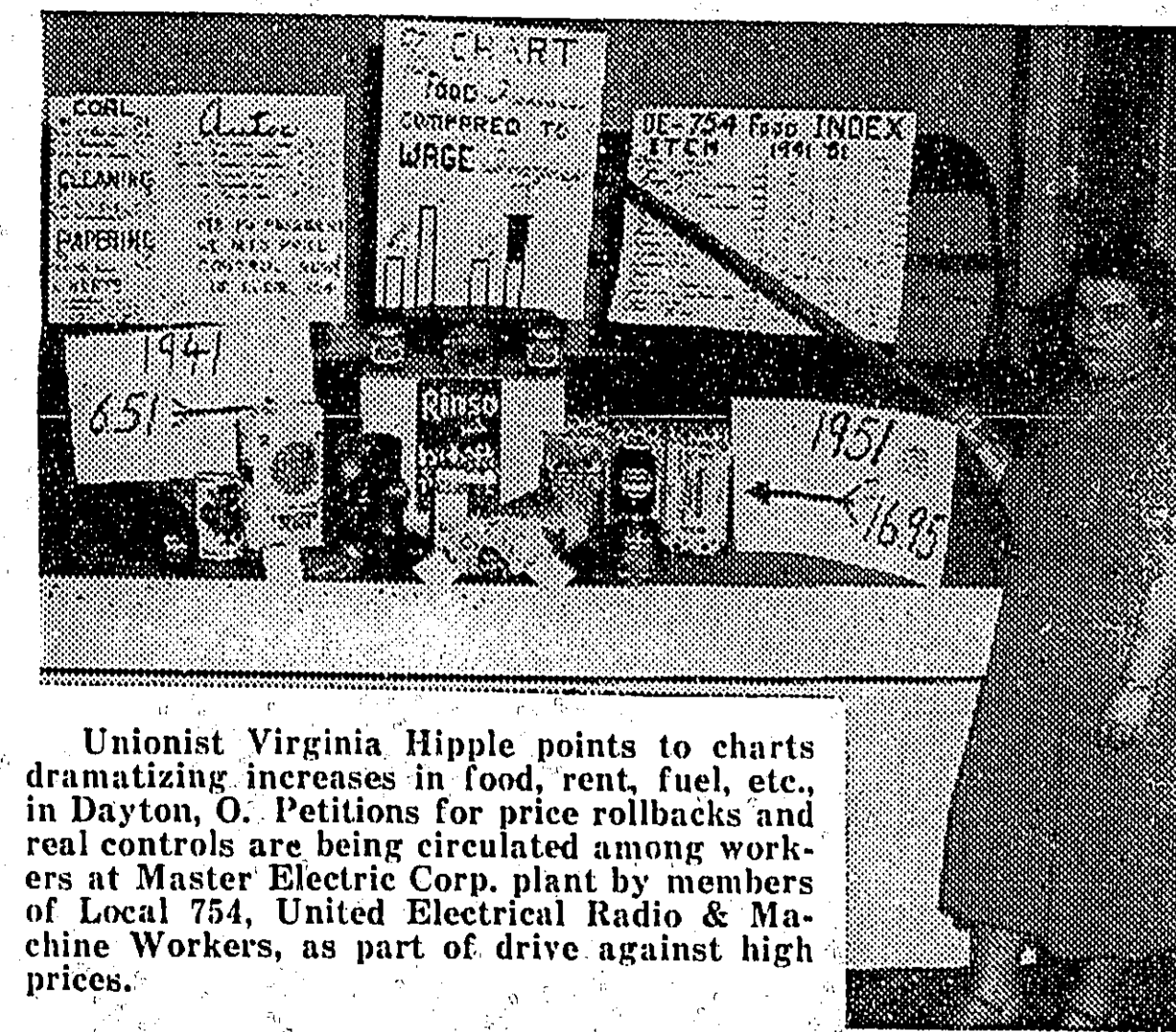
2nd Shift—1:30 p.m.

1st and 3rd Shifts—7:30 p.m.

Regular Order of Business

Reports of Committees

## Union Drive Against High Prices



Unionist Virginia Hipple points to charts dramatizing increases in food, rent, fuel, etc., in Dayton, O. Petitions for price rollbacks and real controls are being circulated among workers at Master Electric Corp. plant by members of Local 754, United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers, as part of drive against high prices.

## Executive Board Meets With Male

A sub-committee of the Executive Board of U. E. Local 301 met with Lewis J. Male, Manager of the Schenectady plant, again Tuesday to continue discussions on day work rates and women's rates.

The discussions centered around the rates paid in Schenectady as compared with the community. The Schenectady community extends in an approximate 300 mile radius of Schenectady. The committee pointed out that when the management increased over 4,000 day work rates last year an extra 5 cents, it created inequalities among many occupations causing a great deal of dissatisfaction among employees working on the jobs that were not affected.

Considerable time was devoted in the discussions to the present status of skilled rates compared to the community.

The Union committee will meet with the management again next week to continue discussions.

## U. E. Member Requests Blood Donors

Vincent Chantnicki, employed in the Turbine Division, Bldg. 273, is requesting blood donors for his wife, Marion, who is ill at the Ellis Hospital. Vincent needs 5 pints to be replaced.

Any member who desires to help this Union member out can contact him in Bldg. 273 or at his residence, 3325 Marie St., City, or get in touch with William Stewart, Executive Board member, Bldg 273. The Union pays one hour lost time for volunteers giving blood.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 25th  
7:30 p. m.

## I.U.E. Blows Hot and Cold

Another backhand somersault performed by the I.U.E. —

First they say on June 14th in a leaflet distributed at the plant — You can't get 9c because the Government won't approve. This leaflet was distributed Friday morning when the Schenectady Gazette carried a story of the W.S.B. approval.

Being caught with their grapevine down, they hustled to the print shop and ordered a new batch of leaflets, changing the date to June 18th and running a new story on one side of the June 14th leaflet to the effect that they saved the day.

Note quote from both leaflets:

June 14th — "What chance is there to get approval for the nine cents raise? . . . "Why should the Government listen to U.E. now?"

June 18th — "But IUE-CIO, on the morning of June 14, sent a telegram to the chairman of the WSB . . . "This telegram brought immediate action by the Board, and brought a nine-cent hourly increase to all GE workers."

Note — W.S.B. discussed G.E. Case #1510 on Tuesday, June 12th.

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301 UE

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