

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

April 14, 1950

Local Dues Payments Pass 6,000 Mark

Effort Made to Scrap Sunday Double Time

Attacks on UE contract standards started the very first week without a contract, despite GE's public promise that it would live up to the contract conditions. The attempts to chisel were stopped by the members led by UE-301 shop stewards, who brushed IUE interference aside.

In Building 52, last Friday, Howard Negus, assistant general foreman tried to convince one crane man and two crane followers to come in on Easter Sunday for time-and-a-half. When they objected, Negus told Chief Shop Steward James Cognetta that under the law the company need pay double time only for the seventh straight day of work. Cognetta declared that double time for Sunday would have to be paid under the contract. The men were called in Saturday instead of Sunday.

UE Complains to Schaaff

When the matter was called to Frank Schaaff's attention in Building 41 Tuesday, he said Negus must have been kidding. He said he would check into it, however.

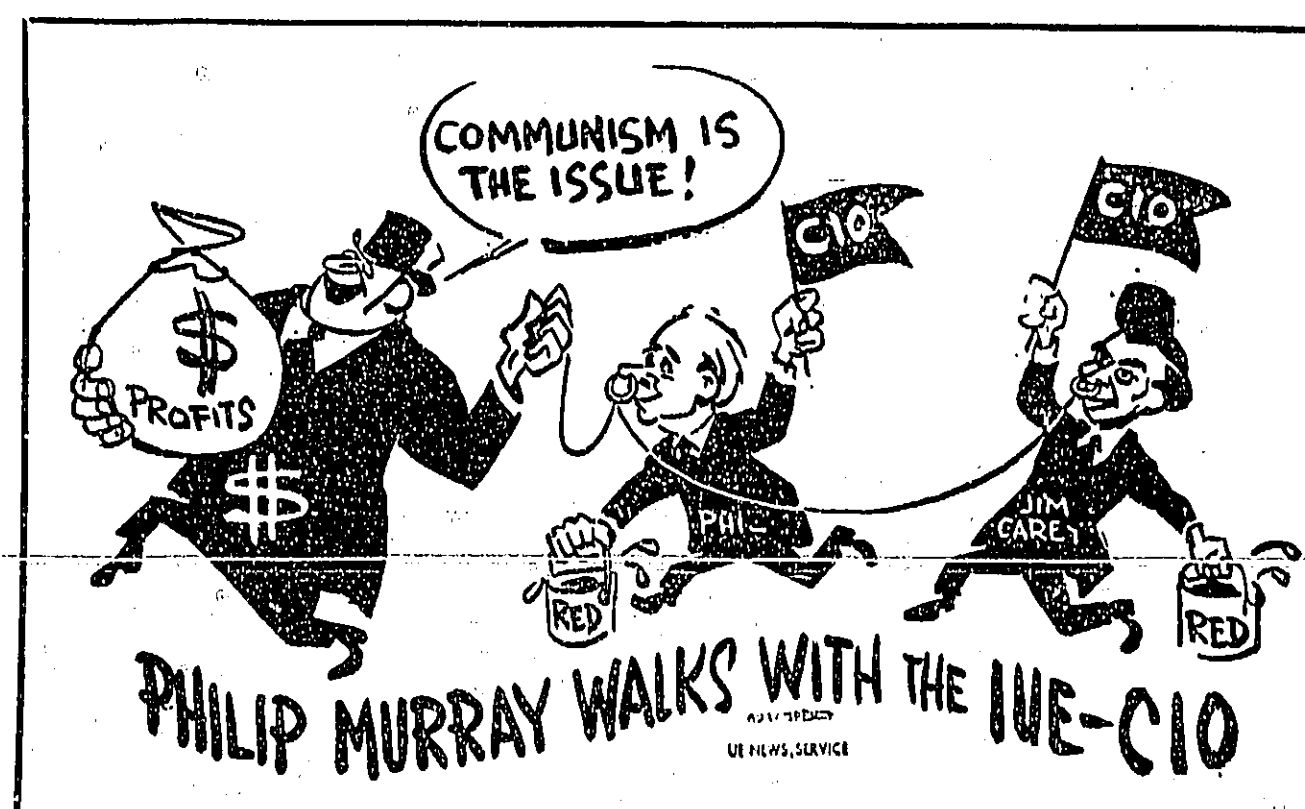
An attempt to move lockers at a great distance from a milling machine group in Building 16, which would have cost the group time, was stopped when the most of Building 12, 14, and 16 stopped work.

In Building 17, Foreman William Atkinson backed down on a proposed cut in a standard price after the production workers in 15, 17, and 19 stopped work. He returned to the original method and price. The changed method will be time studied.

Observing Time Studies

Foreman in Buildings 273 and 285 tried to stop shop stewards in observing time studies. In 273 the foreman backed down when the whole gang went in on the case. In 285 the foreman yielded when the shop steward asked if he would like to have the whole group observe the study.

In other places foremen dealt peacefully with the regular stew-



Test Case Brought Over Report-in Pay

UE-301 has brought a test case before a state referee to fight a state ruling that report-in pay counts as a day's work and delays eligibility for unemployment insurance.

The case is that of Anna Page who received three hours' report-in pay, under the UE-GE contract, because there was no work for her to do when she reported at the plant. The State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance ruled that it was an employed day, because of the three hours' pay. The ruling deprives the worker of a week's unemployment insurance.

The union takes the position that the payment didn't represent wages, but was a penalty imposed on GE under the contract for not notifying the woman in advance that no work was available, and to cover incidental expenses involved in reporting to work.

Testimony was presented recently at a hearing before an unemployment insurance referee. The decision has not been handed down yet. Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, handled the case.

Arms and grievances were settled without fuss. It appeared that the works management had advised foremen to try to avoid trouble, but that in some divisions the supervision was carried away by zeal to take advantage of the absence of a contract.

\$5,120 for Eye Injury

A workmen's compensation award of \$5,120 has been made to George Montanye, Building 50 milling machine operator, against the General Electric Company. He suffered total loss of the use of his left eye as the result of an accident July 7, 1948. The case was handled through UE-301 by its attorney, Marshall Perlin.

Want a Television Set?

Have you bought your ticket yet for the dance which the UE Woman's Club will have Apr. 20 at 301 Hall? A television set will be given away as a prize.

301 Membership Meeting Next Week

The monthly UE-301 membership meeting will be next week at the union hall.

Second shift—Immediately after work Monday night, Apr. 17 (at 12:45 a.m. Tuesday, Apr. 18)

First and third shifts—7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Apr. 18.

The company is taking advantage of the contract expiration to deny use of the bulletin boards to the union. This GE action comes at a time when it is particularly important for there to be a large turnout for the membership meeting because of the approaching NLRB election.

Collection Is Heaviest On Monday

Payment of April dues passed the 6,000-mark early this week.

The biggest single day's collection was made by the UE-301 shop stewards on Monday, following the first pay day of the month last Friday, which was formerly dues check-off day. Close to 2,000 dues stamps were given out Monday.

Shop stewards reported that because of Easter expenses many members said they were postponing paying for another week. Meanwhile the steady day-by-day collection work has been continuing this week throughout the shops.

Three more shop stewards have reported 100 per cent payment of dues in their groups: W. T. Van Dyke, Building 67; Mario Bagnato, Bldg. 52, and Edward F. Smiech, Bldg. 81.

Company Backs Down On Grievance Form

The deadlock over recognition of shop stewards on grievances since contract expiration was settled Thursday, Apr. 6. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the Works manager, told Leo Jandreau by telephone that the company would drop its demand for written designations when the worker involved in the grievance tells the foreman that the shop steward represents him.

UE 301 stewards, by membership decision, have refused to give any written designations, as the UE remains the sole bargaining agency under the law, while waiting for a Labor Board election.

In actual fact, individual foremen had already backed down and dealt with UE stewards on grievances without designations, in cases where the groups involved backed up the shop steward by visiting the foreman in a body or by stopping work.

UE Plants Vote For Union Shop

UE is winning union shop elections at plant after plant.

Workers at the Square D. Company, Detroit, Mich., voted 835 for a union shop and 35 against.

Six motor repair shops in Detroit cast 89 votes for the union shop and 3 against.

At Minneapolis, Minn., union shop elections were won recently by UE at DeBourgh Manufacturing Company, Champion Manufacturing Company, Rodgers Hydraulic Company, and Star Machine and Tool Company.

Workers at the American Safety Razor Company, New York City, voted 749 for a union shop and 104 against.

Another UE union shop election victory was at Miehle Printing Press and Manufacturing Company, Chicago. The vote was 690 for the union shop and 99 against.

Want a Laugh?

Ralph Light, Philip Murray's personal representative in Schenectady, went to Elmira Sunday, Mar. 26 with Frank Fiorillo and Martin Stanton to address a meeting called for Elmira GE foundry workers.

There were almost as many people on the platform as in the audience. But Light made up for that with the size of the whoppers he told. Here's one he told the GE workers, as quoted in the Elmira paper:

"When you went on strike for a 10-cent raise, the Communist leaders settled for three cents."

Now what strike was that? He must have been thinking of the recent steel strike.

And Light also ridiculed UE's law suit on behalf of GE silicosis victims, in Elmira and Schenectady, just as GE ridiculed it.

Eight-Cent Package

UE Local 144 at Wilmington, Del., has negotiated a contract with National Vulcanized Fibre Company providing an eight-cent package increase for 800 workers.

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THESE SHOP STEWARDS taking their oath of office at 301 hall include D. Rogers Pitman, Building 69; Henry Kaminski, Bldg. 76, and the following from Bldg. 273: Joseph Somnese, Ray H. Frederick, Richard Haines, Louis Blumhagen, Raymond Montgomery, Frank Cornicelli, Noel Test, Ernest Criscuolo; Roy Lash, Joseph Sickinger, Douglas De Forge, Joseph Frank, Jack A. Kilmer, William Anthony, William Stewart, C. Coons, Teddy Wheeler, Frank Ostrander, Robert J. Hunt and Hank Wilbard.

Still No Election Date

There was still no decision from the National Labor Relations Board about the GE election date when this week's EU News went to press.

Members have asked whether the vote is going to be counted for the whole GE chain, or plant by plant. The established policy of the Board is that the vote is separate for each bargaining unit (meaning generally each plant). This means that each plant picks its own bargaining agency regardless of how the other plants vote.

UE-301 Expels Edward Cassidy

On recommendation of the trial committee the UE-301 membership meeting Mar. 23 expelled Edward Cassidy for secession activities and promoting a dual organization. He was a shop steward in Building 273.

Also on recommendation of the trial committee the membership reinstated John J. Niemiec, Building 269, who was expelled in December. Niemiec did not appear to defend himself at his first trial in December. After his expulsion he asked for another hearing. The committee gave it to him and exonerated him.

In two other cases, both in Building 273, the membership meeting exonerated the members, on recommendation of the trial committee. Both men had appeared before the committee.

Robert Armstrong is chairman of the trial committee and William Stella, secretary.

Bishop Issues Message Against UE Before Election at Iliion Rem-Rand

A public message from the Right Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, Catholic bishop of Albany, was delivered at Easter services by priests in the Iliion-Herkimer area, urging Remington-Rand workers to vote against UE in the NLRB election two days later.

The message also was issued as a leaflet. It called the UE "Communist-dominated" and "an enemy of God and the Catholic Church." The message also charged that the UE violated the contract at Remington-Rand.

The result was that the IUE came out ahead in the election, although it had no organization in the plant.

A UE leaflet later carried a message from General President Albert J. Fitzgerald, declaring that as a Catholic he was "deeply disturbed" that the Albany Diocese was misinformed as to the issues and the facts. Fitzgerald pointed out that it was a fact recorded in the Congressional Record that Remington-Rand, not UE, took advantage of Taft-Hartley to violate the contract.

Fitzgerald declared: "UE is not Communist-dominated, nor is it Communist-controlled. UE is run by the members. We are unequivocally opposed to any attempts by the Communist Party or any other party, as well as any secular or religious group, to interfere with, dictate to or dominate the UE."

Fitzgerald's answer was not enough to overcome the effects of the sudden message from the bishop.

Because Schenectady is in the same diocese, a group of UE members who are practicing Catholics formed an informal committee and arranged to call at the Bishop's of-

face this week in an effort to convince him that there should be no church activity in the GE Labor Board election.

The bishop's letter to the Iliion workers told them not to be "misled into favoring the UE because of the material benefits which they have derived from it." The letter said other unions had obtained more benefits.

Actually the rates won through UE at Remington-Rand are the highest in the Utica-Iliion area, and are higher than at Rochester and Syracuse, where CIO unions are the principal ones. The UE rates at Remington-Rand in Iliion are 9 cents to 60 cents an hour higher than at the same company's plant in Marietta, Ohio, which is the only one organized by the CIO. The Marietta plant is under a Steelworkers' contract.

Like Son, Like Father

Production workers in Buildings 15, 17 and 19 stopped work last Friday over a proposed piece work price cut. The only people who stayed at work on the production floor were an IUE die setter and a crane operator working with him. Workers stood around pointing at the crane operator.

His name is Alfonso Fiorillo. He is the father of Frank Fiorillo, who recently acquired a big car and the title of district director of the "Imitation UE."

Big Increases in '49 For Officers of GE

General Electric officers received big increases in their "take" from the company during 1949. At the same time the company refused to raise the wages of its workers. It took advantage of the IUE disruption which it helped promote.

President Charles E. Wilson's total income from GE for 1949 came to \$277,000, a jump of \$35,000 over his 1948 income. His \$277,000 consisted of \$125,000 in fees and salary and \$152,000 in profit sharing (\$76,000 in cash and \$76,000 in GE stock).

Philip D. Reed, chairman of the board of directors, received an income of \$180,000 from GE in 1949, or \$22,001 above the previous year. He got fees and salary of \$80,000 in 1949, plus \$100,000 profit sharing (\$49,992 cash and \$50,008 stock).

Ralph J. Cordiner, executive vice-president, had an income of \$143,250 for 1949, or \$28,250 over his 1948 figure. He received fees and salary of \$71,250 and profit sharing of \$72,000 (\$36,014 cash and \$35,986 stock).

The company distributed \$6,189,000 in profit sharing in 1949 to a comparative handful of GE officials. The amount distributed was way above the 1948 figure of \$4,551,000 distributed in profit sharing.

AER Increases Won On 3 Machine Jobs

Substantial increases in piece work AER's of three machine jobs were won recently through actions of UE-301 shop stewards.

On shafting work on a new 60-inch lathe in Building 16 supervision had set an AER of \$1.945 on the ground that it was an old established rate. Grievance action was taken by Executive Board member Joseph Kelly, steward for the group. Building 41 agreed to raise the AER to \$2.105, after a session at which Shop Steward B. L. Ferial of Building 273 showed that in the Turbine Division the higher rate applies.

In Bldg. 10-C some machines were being changed from day work piece work. Shop Steward Larry Parker got the closer work on the turret lathe raised from the \$1.62 AER to \$1.73 by showing this was the rate applied in Bldg. 42.

He also got the AER on the thread-grinder raised from \$1.61 to \$1.62. He settled both cases with the foreman.

GE-IUE Team Work In Check-off Case

The General Electric Company has turned down a proposal that after the National Labor Relations Board election the dues check-off money at each plant be turned over to the union that wins there.

Thus, once again the GE and the IUE team up to oppose letting the workers decide where they want their dues money to go.

After the GE-IUE maneuvers tied up the check-off money in Federal Court this winter, UE suggested that to save long court proceedings the money should be returned at once to the individual workers to do with as they choose. GE agreed but IUE refused.

That's the pattern the two have followed in the dues case and in the NLRB election. When GE agrees to anything that might speed arrangements or let the workers express their wishes, it can count on IUE to reject it. And if IUE agrees to anything to save face, it can count on GE to turn it down.

When IUE rejected the idea of having the dues returned to the individual workers, it had to do a little face-saving, so it proposed the plan of letting the election decide the issue at each plant. UE agreed in order to avoid more delay. And now GE has refused.

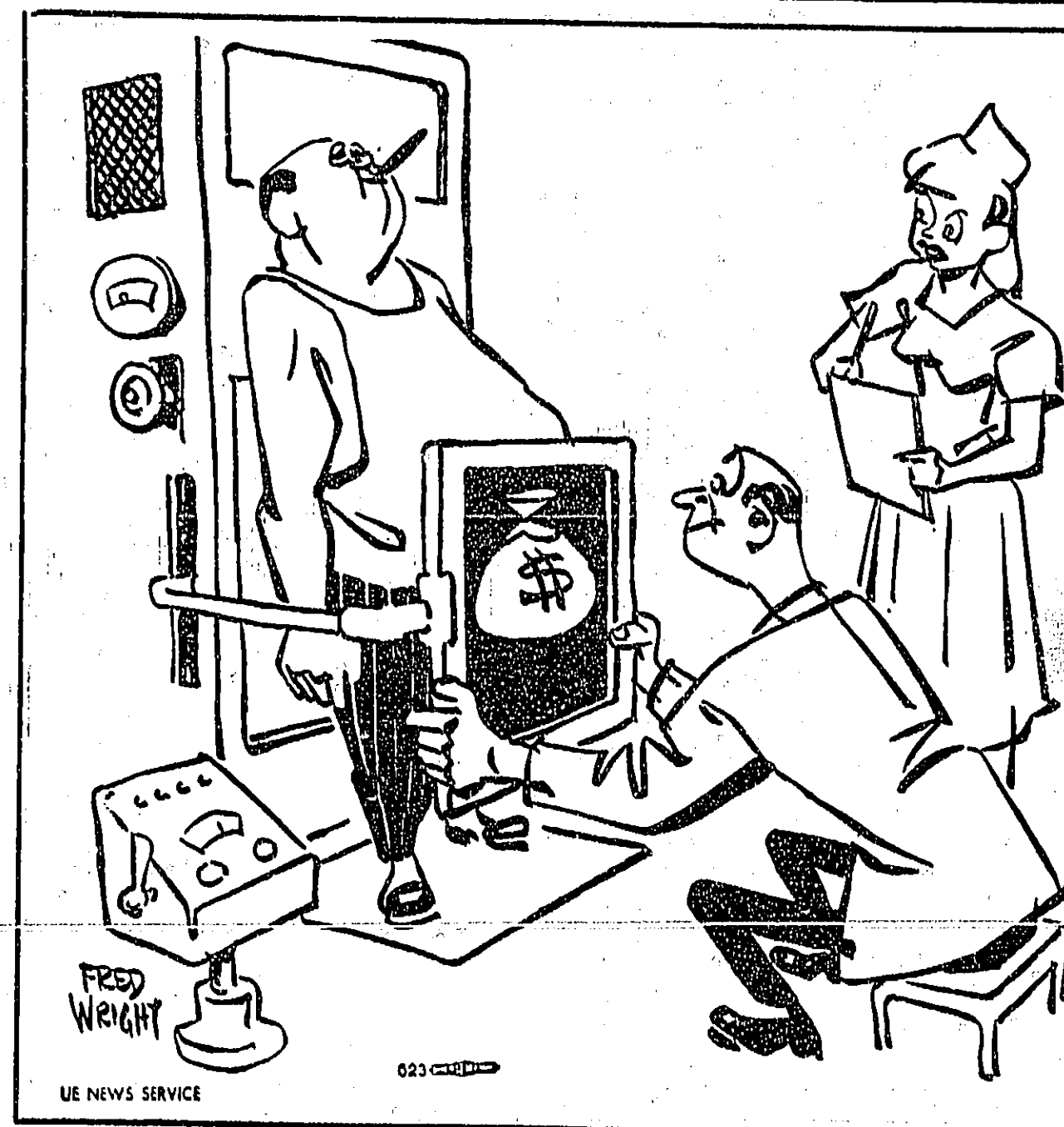
UE, therefore, has again asked IUE to accept the original suggestion that the dues money be returned to the individual workers. UE has "complete confidence that the members to whom such money would be returned would turn over such dues to their respective UE Locals," the UE attorney, David Scribner, said in a letter to the IUE attorney.

UAW Assesses Members \$12 for —

How would you like to be assessed a dollar a week for 12 weeks to raid another union?

That's what is happening to members of the United Auto Workers. Their one dollar weekly assessments started Feb. 9 and will continue through the first week of May.

Supposedly the assessments are for the Chrysler strikers. But only \$82,000 a week is being turned over to the strikers from the hundreds of thousands of dollars collected each week. The rest of the money is being used for raiding and disrupting other unions.



IUE Sell-out of Newark Radio Strike Brings Pay Cuts, Weakens Seniority

The back-to-work settlement which the IUE made with National Union Radio Corporation at Newark, N. J., betrayed the five months strike of 750 workers. They returned to their jobs with their wages cut their seniority slashed to ribbons and many benefits of their previous UE contract completely wiped out.

Here are some of the things the IUE agreed to:

The guaranteed rate for piecework, which was \$1.02 under the UE contract, has been cut to \$.81 an hour.

Piece workers who were previously paid for shrinkage or bad work (which always runs high in making tubes) must now pay 35% of shrinkage costs, even though it is not the operator's fault. These cuts may range up to 25 cents an hour. To sugar-coat the pill, the new contract grants one additional holiday worth 3/4 cent an hour.

The two paid rest periods which UE won five years ago were given up by IUE.

The company is given the right to discipline workers in any way it sees fit for "interfering" with production.

If a worker is absent for more than five days, even for illness, he



31-Cent Package

After winning an election at the Advance Metal Products Company, Chicago, UE Local 1110 recently signed its first contract with the company, with a 31-cent package gain. The contract also provides for a union shop.