



Friendly Town - First Stop

Chicago—UE Local 1114 has negotiated wage increases of 2c to 16c an hour in a new contract for workers at the Baumbach Manufacturing Co. Added to last year's 14c increase for the Baumbach workers, this brought the total boosts in 2 years to from 22c to 38c an hour.

Portland, Ore.—One of the biggest locals of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Local 8, voted to notify the attorney-general that any new attempts to deport HAWU President Harry Bridges would be met by work stoppages "for an indefinite period." The Supreme Court recently voided a deportation order against Bridges, bringing to 5 the number of unsuccessful corporation efforts to "get" Bridges in the past 19 years. The government immediately announced that they would start new proceedings against the west coast union leader.

Philadelphia—UE Local 155 has won substantial wage increases in 2 of its shops. Workers at Fox Products will get boosts of 12c plus fringe improvements, while those in the Walter Lausterer Co. plant will get dime boosts.

Cleveland—The CIO rubber workers this week prepared for strike votes against the Firestone Rubber Co. plants. The decision to take the ballots was made after 3 weeks of "fruitless negotiations."

Dover, Ohio—Members of UE Local 708 employed by the General Telephone Co. are getting 5c to 14c more an hour as the result of a new agreement won by the union. Other improvements were made in night shift bonus and in the pension plan.

Newark, N.J.—UE Local 437 has won increases for workers in 4 shops under contract with the union. Getting the 8c hourly boosts were employees of William and Steiner, William F. Steiner Co., Best Manufacturing Co. and General Brass Co.

New York—Seven hundred and fifty AFL restaurant employees returned to work after being locked out for one day by 70 swank New York eating places. The lock-out grew out of a dispute over failure of the managements to make agreed-on contributions to a pension fund.

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KIDS TAKE OVER. UE Local 301 hall became the property of the youngsters last week as children from New York gathered there to meet with the area families with whom they were to spend vacations sponsored by the New York Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund. Pictured above is a view of the hall with the Schenectady families at the left and the New York kids at the right. In the pictures on the right and below, the children are shown leaving the hall with their hosts.



HOME SICKNESS GONE. And don't think that the ice cream which the youngsters are pictured eating (lower right) didn't help to make the kids feel lots better about their new surroundings. The refreshments were distributed by Local 301. A Schenectady police officer comes in for close inspection as he helps out in seeing the right kids hooked up with the right families (below).



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY NEW YORK

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Cleveland—UE Local 736 has announced a complete victory in its four-week strike against the Picker X-Ray Co. plant here. Feature of the settlement was a 13c hourly package for all of Picker's more than 400 employees. The package, which includes wage boosts of 8c to 18c an hour, eliminates all rates below common labor in Picker. The strike had completely shut down the Picker plant. It followed a company attempt to split the workers by inspiring a totally unsuccessful IUE-CIO raid.

Flint, Mich.—Buick Local 599 of the CIO autoworkers voted last week to strike the General Motors Co. plant here unless the company immediately began to bargain in good faith on a new seniority agreement. The old accord expired July 20, and Buick GM management has refused to discuss renewal of the agreement and extension of protections against speed-up and arbitrary layoffs and firings. As a result the Buick workers voted for a strike by a margin of 11,169 to 1,459.

Peru, Ind.—UE Local 905's unity and militancy paid off this month when the Square D Co. signed a new contract with the union only a few hours before a strike deadline set by the membership. Not only did the workers defeat all company efforts to weaken their old UE contract, but they also won wage increases of 10c an hour, and the inclusion of 18c of the 21c hourly cost-of-living boosts on the regular rate structure.

Washing.—Hourly pay scales of AFL construction workers rose by 2.6% between April 1 and July 1 according to figures released last week by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Detroit—UE Local 947 members have ratified a new contract with the Electric Repair Association providing the highest wages in the industry for the more than 100 employees of five independent motor repair shops. Skilled workers under the contract won wage boosts of 20c to 46½c an hour. Class A mechanics will now have an hourly rate of \$2.50, while outside trouble shooters will get \$2.75.

Help at Mica!

All UE Local 301 members who have relatives, friends and neighbors working at the Mica Insulator Co. can play important roles in helping UE to organize that plant.

These roles can be played first by talking to Mica workers and telling them about how our union works, and about the gains scored by UE in GE; and secondly by contacting the union hall to find out whether their Mica acquaintances have signed UE cards or not.

If everyone does this, it will assure an overwhelming UE victory at Mica where the workers are rallying under the slogan, "Unity with 20,000 GE workers in Schenectady's largest and strongest union."

COL Reaches New High As Food Prices Mount

Rising food costs last week pushed the BLS cost-of-living index to a new all-time high on June 15 according to figures made public last week.

Living costs rose .4% higher in the month between May 15 and June 15. This was the 4th straight monthly increase. Leading the upward advance was a 1.4% rise in food prices to the consumer. This brought retail food prices 13.7% higher than the pre-Korean war average.

Biggest food price rise was for fruits and vegetables. The produce soared 5.6%. Meats, fish and bakery products also went up substantially. Indications are that the July figure, which will be announced in mid-August, will show an even sharper rise.

Mica Drive Gathers Steam As Aug. 14 Election Nears

UE's drive to organize Mica Insulator Co. employees gathered steam this week as the August 14 date set for a representation election at the Broadway plant drew nearer.

Union Demands Boosts For Inspectors in 46

Local 301 representatives met with GE works management on Tuesday to demand an immediate increase in classification and rate for a number of Building 46 inspection jobs. The meeting followed the growth of a situation which so angered the 46 workers that they left their jobs.

The walkout, which began on Friday, ended only after management agreed to discuss the situation with the union. Chief problem taken up by the meeting was the refusal of 46 supervision to properly classify a number of inspectors.

These inspectors all were doing jobs which merited B ratings, but are classified only as C workers. Comparable work carries B classifications in many other shops in the plant.

At the Tuesday meeting, the company agreed to immediately investigate the situation and to report back to the union within a few days. Union representatives warned that unless a satisfactory solution was reached quickly, the workers involved were likely to walk out again. It was pointed out that the demanded upgradings are long overdue.

The election date was set last week by the National Labor Relations Board in a conference with all parties involved.

For the past 12 years, the 600 Mica workers have been saddled with a company union. As a result, the wages and working conditions of the men and women in the shop have fallen far behind those won for GE workers by the UE. For example, many Mica employees start at \$1.00 an hour, and it takes them five full years to reach a job rate of only \$1.20.

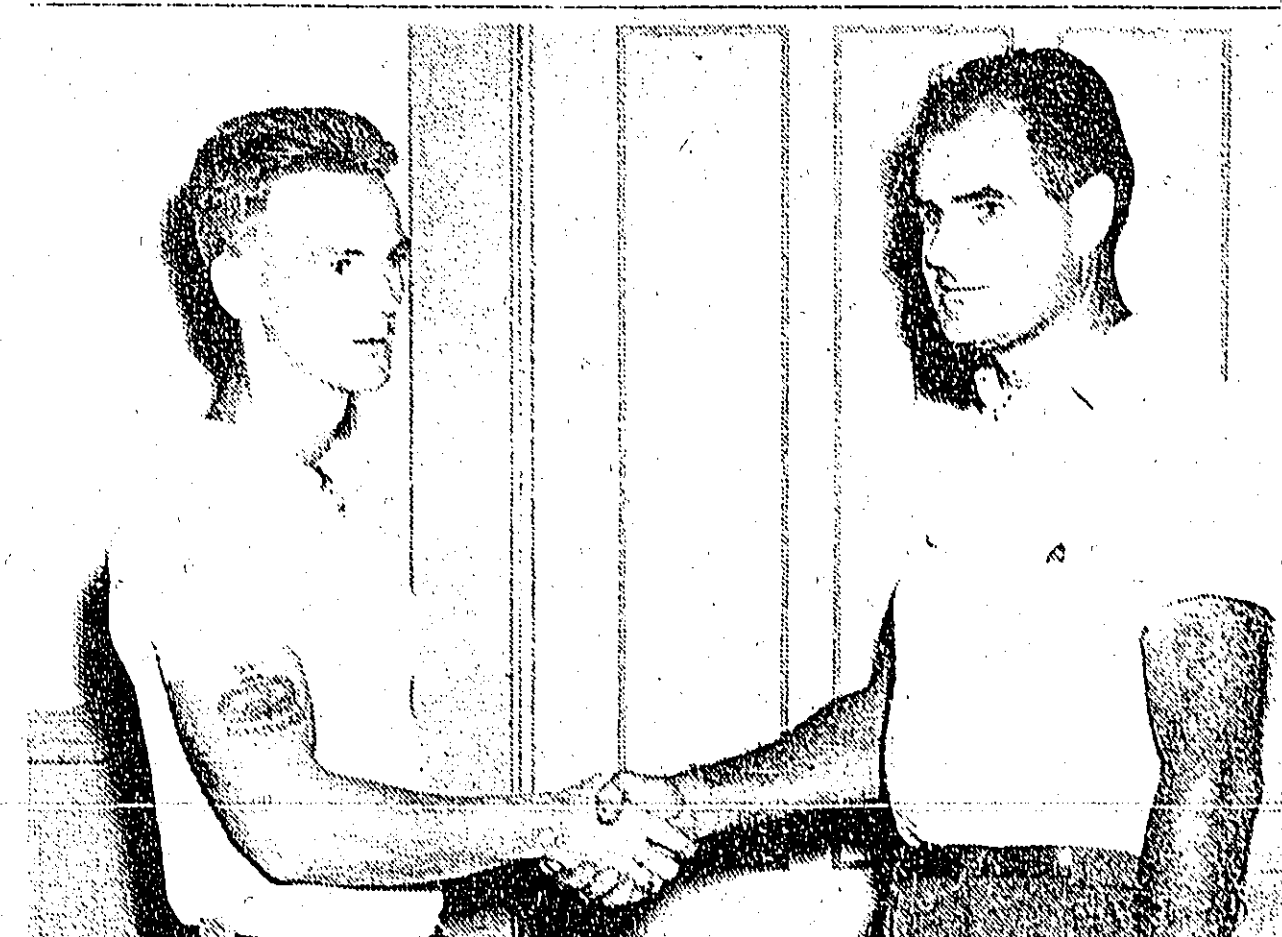
In general, the wages of Mica workers average from 25c to a dollar an hour less than the pay of their GE neighbors. This condition constitutes a constant threat to the conditions established at GE in the past 20 years of UE representation. Because of this threat, UE Local 301 is giving full support to the drive to organize Mica.

On the other hand, Mica management is trying every desperate maneuver in the book to keep UE out of the shop. In this, the company is being aided by the IUE-CIO, which, although it has almost no support in the shop, has been engaged in a typical red-baiting drive against the UE. This drive follows closely the pattern established by IUE in its desperate attempts to disrupt UE at the Schenectady works from 1949 to 1951. It appears certain that the answer of the Mica workers will be the same as that of the GE workers—overwhelming rejection of the IUE-CIO and of its splitting tactics.

Board Meets Monday

UE Local 301's executive board will meet next Monday evening, August 3, at 7:30 p.m., while the next combined gathering of members and stewards is slated for two weeks later, Monday, Aug. 17.

Both of these dates were set under the curtailed summer schedule of meetings followed by the local for July and August. Under this program, the usually separate membership and stewards' meetings are combined, while the board meetings are reduced from two to one a month. The local will resume its regular schedule of meetings in September.



CONGRATULATIONS. Robert Rider, 289, and Shop Steward Andrew Haura congratulate each other after winning a 20c boost and more than \$200 in back pay for Rider. See story on page 3.

McCarran Bill Would Scuttle Safeguard of Bill of Rights

Sen. Pat McCarran, the Nevada Democrat who specializes in bills to deprive Americans of their freedoms, has come up with a new proposal, this one openly designed to kill one of the precious safeguards of the Bill of Rights.

The new McCarran bill is, if possible, even more vicious than the McCarran thought control law which provides for the establishment of concentration camps in the U.S., and the McCarran-Walter immigration law which treats Italians, Eastern Europeans, Negroes, Jews and Asians as "inferior" peoples. It is aimed at nullifying the fifth amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

This amendment protects men and women from testifying against themselves. It has been an important safeguard for persons called before witch hunt committees. The fifth amendment is particularly important because, not only does it make it possible for a man or woman to refuse to discuss personal political views, but it also prevents the witch hunters from forcing people from informing on friends and associates.

Since "stool pigeons" and informers have always been weapons of the big corporations to attack unions, this protection is particularly vital to the labor movement. CIO, AFL and independent unions have condemned the new McCarran bill for this reason.

However, the bill has already been passed by the Senate and is now coming up before the House. Interestingly enough, up to this point there have been no public hearings on the measure, and most of the nation's press has been strangely silent about it. Apparently, the McCarran strategy is to try and sneak it into law before the people become aroused to the danger of this latest attack on freedom.

Specifically the bill would provide "immunity" from prosecution to congressional witnesses, and thereby make it impossible for them to invoke the fifth amendment. However, no guarantees are provided that this immunity would be of any value two hours after the end of the congressional hearings.

Joint IH Meeting Set

UE's International Harvester conference board has accepted an invitation to participate in a joint meeting of representatives of all unions in the farm equipment chain. Tentative date of the gathering, proposed by an AFL Harvester local leader in Milwaukee, is August 7.

Link Deportation Try to Pact Talks

The latest persecution attempt against Mrs. Antonia Senter, wife of UE International Representative Bill Senter, was linked this month with union negotiations at the Servel Corporation in Evansville, Indiana. At the height of these negotiations, now successfully completed, the government issued a warrant for the arrest and deportation of Mrs. Senter.

UE District 8 President Don Harris immediately charged that the publicized issuance of the warrant during the Servel talks was designed to provide the company with an "ace-in-the-hole" to undermine the fight of the Servel workers.

Mrs. Senter, now 47 years old, has been in this country since she was 8. She is the mother of 3 children and 4 grandchildren, all born in this country and American citizens. The government has claimed that Mrs. Senter was a Communist Party member in 1935.



PAT McCARRAN. The Nevada witch hunter whose latest attack on American democracy is described on this page.

New NLRB Ruling

A recent ruling of the National Labor Relations Board held that a union which wins a representation election must immediately be given bargaining rights, and that a long-term contract can not be used as an excuse to keep another union in.

The decision, first of its kind ever made by the NLRB, granted the AFL pattern makers bargaining rights for workers previously represented by the CIO autoworkers.

301 Women Meet To Hear of Gains

Women members of Local 301 met last night as the UE national women's fight bore important fruit in 2 large Ohio shops. The meeting of the Schenectady women, the 4th in a monthly series, was held too late to be reported in this week's EU News, but will be covered next week.

Meanwhile, the union could boast long strides toward eliminating sex discrimination at the Master Electric Co. plant in Dayton and the Picker X-Ray Co. shop in Cleveland.

At Master, a new contract completely eliminates all women's differentials on jobs not restricted by the state laws. In order to accomplish this, management was forced to grant special pay boosts of 4c to 7c an hour to women workers. These increases came on top of 5c to 15c hikes negotiated in a new contract with UE Local 754.

The Picker victory was scored as part of a settlement of a 4-week strike by UE Local 755. Chief feature of the settlement for women workers was the elimination of rates below that of common labor.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.



Bldg. 52: Supervision has cut the standard prices of work on the drill press operated by A. Colandra. This is a clear violation of the union contract, and the union demands that management investigate and properly adjust the prices.

Bldg. 53: Roger De Filippo is classified as an electro-plater with a rate of \$1.73 1/2. For the past two years, he has been preparing dip tank solutions. The union demands that he be reclassified as a solution specialist with proper rates adjustment.

Bldg. 69: Sophie Wasniewski has a G test classification. She is testing size three magnetic switches. These switches are heavy, and in order for the complainant to keep up with the line throughout the day, she must lift them continuously. The union demands that this job be given to a man, and that the complainant be given another G test job.

Bldg. 73: Group under Foreman Gerling is entitled to payment of 11 hours for doing the work of material moveman and another 11 hours for performing the work of material handlers during a two-week period. At present, there is only one material handler in this group and he has far more work than he can possibly do, so that the workers in the group have

to move and handle their own materials. The union demands payment of the 22 hours and the addition of a second material handler to the group.

Bldg. 269: Winslow Klopot has been reporting to work at 6:30 a.m., 30 minutes before his regular shift begins, for approximately one year. He has been receiving time and one-half for the half hour, but under contract article V-8, he has been and is entitled to double time. The union demands payment of the additional money due to this worker retroactive to the date on which he began to work early.

Workers in test area do not have enough space to move around without constantly bumping into trays of work piled up all around them. Tubes are piled up in trays

under benches restricting leg room severely. Finally, the heat in the area is excessive because of no air circulation. The union demands immediate management action to improve these sub-standard working conditions.

Bldg. 285: D. Plugg was laid off because of lack of work on 6/26. During his week's notice time, he spent about 12 hours looking for work elsewhere in the plant. Foreman Hollenbeck has refused payment for this time. This is a clear violation of contract article XI-6 under which a worker is entitled to look for comparable work in the plant without loss of earnings. The union demands immediate payment for these 12 hours.

Group of wiremen working under Foreman Ritchie protest a new departure under which supervision allows only 30 minutes for going back and completing a job regardless of how many sections are involved. When a job is being worked on the floor, more than one wireman becomes involved in the different sections, and the half hour allowance is then completely inadequate. The union demands that supervision allow one-half hour to every operator on every section which is priced as an individual job, a procedure which had been standard practice for the past five years.

Injury Awards Make Dream Come True

On August 17, Christopher Di Frango will realize a 42-year-old dream—thanks to the UE Local 301 free compensation service. On that day, the former Schenectady GE worker will board a ship to return to his native Italy and settle down on a small family farm in Calabria.

Di Frango's return is possible only because the union's free compensation service has won him \$13,368 in compensation awards for three injuries sustained in his work in the Peek Street plant and in Building 89. The first of these injuries was suffered in 1947, when the worker strained his back while doing his job as a laborer.

Another back injury was suffered in 1948, a third injury, this one to the right shoulder, resulted from being hit by a falling window in 1951.

Di Frango, long a UE member, took his problem to his union and immediately was given free legal service to gain the fullest possible compensation for his injuries. As a result, he received \$2,995 in a scheduled award for a 30% disability to his shoulder; \$3,373 to make up for time lost on his job, and a \$7,000 lump sum payment for permanent injuries.

This money will enable the 59-year-old widower to return to Italy and spend his declining years on a farm which otherwise would have been just a fond memory from his youth.

Westinghouse Workers Beat Philadelphia Sellout Attempt

Westinghouse workers in the big Essington plant near Philadelphia last week thwarted the efforts of a small clique to turn the union over to IUE-CIO. Francis Bradley, who had led the sellout effort, was forced to resign as business agent of Local 107.

More than 1,000 workers jammed the meeting hall to crush the secession move and to vote overwhelming confidence in UE. This was done by ratifying the new UE-Westinghouse contract almost unanimously. So obvious was the loyalty of the members to UE, that the IUE-CIO agents didn't even dare bring up their secessionist proposals, and Bradley faced no choice except to get out or be kicked out by the irate workers.

Leading the fight for UE was Director of Organization James Mattles and Local 107 President John Monaghan. Thus, for the second time in recent weeks an attempt to split Westinghouse workers away from UE failed. Previously, a similar move had been made by the then president of Local 426, in Newark, Marty Veneri. Veneri held an illegal secessionist meeting at which all UE people were barred, and then announced that the local had switched affiliation.

However, in an emergency local meeting held the following night the Westinghouse workers pledged their continued loyalty to UE and ousted Veneri, whose sellout had been prompted by a \$20,000-a-year political job.

Attempts by the IUE-CIO to raid both shops are expected, and the Westinghouse workers are preparing to repulse them.

Two Men Win 20c Boosts, In Bldg. 269 Grievances

Two Building 269 workers have received wage boosts of 20c an hour and retroactive pay checks amounting to about \$200 each as the result of grievances filed by Local 301.

Unemployment Office Misinforms Workers

Local 301 has been informed that the Schenectady unemployment insurance office has been telling workers who are out of work because of plant vacation shutdowns, but who do not have enough service for vacation payments, that they are ineligible to receive unemployment compensation because of the UE-GE contract.

This is a completely false statement. The only reason that these workers are not getting unemployment benefits is that the courts have ruled that such workers were ineligible.

This union, along with many other unions in New York State, is appealing this decision and advises all people who might be affected to apply for benefits pending the disposition of the appeal.

which together turn out 15% of the nation's beer. The strikers had been demanding a .35-hour week with no loss in pay and a 25c hourly wage hike. Insurance and health improvements were also secured.

Management agreed to pay the two workers Robert Rider and Robert Kynick, both on second shift, rates of \$1.64 an hour instead of the \$1.44 they had been making. Their classifications have been changed from assembling Plystron and trigatron tubes to "brazing furnace-helium atmosphere klystron and trigatron tubes."

The increases were won only after supervision had long refused to move on the dockets. Retroactive payments went back to the date of hiring of the two men, March 5 for Rider, who came to GE after completing army service, and April 27 for Kynick.

Chief union argument in the case was the fact that on first shift, the same job had the higher classification and rate. Supervision attempted to use minor job differences to justify the huge differential.

However, Shop Steward Andrew Hlura and the union office showed management that the difference in rate was a plain case of discrimination.

NLRB Orders Vote At Louisville GE

An election to determine the union to represent workers at the Louisville GE plant has been ordered by the National Labor Relations Board. The vote will be scheduled within the next month.

UE has been engaged in a long campaign to organize the Louisville plant. This drive has been making progress despite heavy odds. GE has been doing everything possible to prevent organization of the Louisville GE plant including careful screening of job applicants for any past union affiliations. The company has also spent millions of dollars in a campaign to frighten the workers into voting "no union."

However, UE's organizers have been assisted in their efforts by 4,500 union members at the Louisville International Harvester plant, as well as by GE workers throughout the chain. Recently Local 301 Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani went to Louisville to talk with GE workers and tell them of the gains scored by UE in Schenectady.

There are now about 1,000 workers in the Louisville plant. This force is expected to grow to more than 15,000 when all GE major appliance work is concentrated in the Kentucky works.

