

# A Day for GE to Remember

If GE didn't know it before May 7, it did afterwards—that it has a fight on its hands when it comes to the demands that the women have raised in current negotiations—backed by the men.

Over 500 UE Local 301 women, on a chilly, windy day, turned out to demonstrate to GE at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. that they are in no mood to take no for an answer on their demands, which are illustrated in the picture top right.

The Subway Gate demonstrations are only the beginning of a major campaign UE has launched to win these demands. Plans have been set by the '301' Women's Steering Committee to tell the story of GE's discrimination against women workers to the Schenectady community through radio, television and newspapers.

Similar plans are set for various other GE communities, with an upstate New York women's conference scheduled to take place soon.

Equal pay for equal work is more than a demand this year. It's rapidly shaping up as the fighting slogan of a major collective bargaining fight.



**WOMEN'S RALLY.** Fraternal delegates and participants from the big UE Local 506 at GE's Erie Works were (center, left) Rose Sharie (left) and Olive Nelson (right), who are seen with '301' demonstrators Alice Crowningshield and Helen Quirini. Right, center, is picture of women marching back to work after hour-long noon demonstration. Bottom left is seen Josephine Ponzillo, Bldg. 81 and Joseph Ahkao, 73A, who entertained the rally with songs. Bottom right is seen part of the large crowd at the noontime demonstration.

**GE Women**

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## '301' Daily Radio Program Set for Station WPTR

As part of its wage and collective bargaining program in 1952 to win maximum public support behind its demands, UE Local 301 will take to the airwaves with a daily radio program beginning on Monday, May 26, over station WPTR.

The first in what promises to be a series of radio programs will be a daily program on the air each day Monday through Friday.

Members have been urged to check their newspapers for the time of the program.

This first series will deal with the special demands of women in the current negotiations with GE. And telling the story of GE's rate discrimination will be the women who work in the Schenectady Works. Each day they will tell the story to Capitol District residents of the "exploiting" business that GE conducts in its plants while putting out lush advertisements about the "dream" world it is creating for the American housewife.

Each broadcast will feature the latest roundup of world and local news and will be followed by interviews with '301' women members in the Works.

In addition to the daily broadcast, '301' is planning to sponsor 90 spot announcements at various times during the day and evening to further bring home the story of GE's discrimination against its women workers.

### Meet GE In NYC

The national UE-GE negotiating committee was conducting bargaining sessions with the company as this issue went to press. Sessions resumed on Wednesday, May 21.

'301' Business Agent Leo Jandreau, a member of the national negotiations committee, said before his departure for New York City that the Union was prepared to refute facts and figures that the company had brought forth at the last session to argue against raises that UE members are demanding.

The bargaining sessions resumed following dramatic demonstrations in support of their demands by women workers in Schenectady and a plant-wide demonstration at the large GE Erie Works.

Though the IUE-CIO made a big noise about a strike on May 14, they have been silent since—and have made no move to take up UE's statesmanlike offer of a common fight against GE in the current wage opener.

Milwaukee—UE Local 1109 wiped out second class economic citizenship for its women workers at Line Material Co. when it won a 16½ cent increase, with a much larger increase going to the women to wipe out a 5 percent rate differential that had previously existed.

San Francisco—An AFL carpenters strike has spread from the San Francisco bay area to all of northern California. It'll eventually involve 200,000 carpenters in 42 counties and is rapidly shutting down all major building construction. 12,000 Frisco bay carpenters have been on strike since April 1.

Chicago—UE was selected by a vote of 17 to 3 by the workers of the Albany Plating Co.

Olympia, Wash.—Repeal of the Defense Production Act and enactment of a law to "protect the living standards of the people and bargaining rights of labor" were called for by the District Two CIO Woodworkers convention here.

Springfield, Mass.—Workers of the Carroll Manufacturing Co. selected UE Local 261 as their collective bargaining representative.

Denver—Spokesmen for 22 striking AFL, CIO and independent oil unions charged that the Wage Stabilization Board's intervention in their strike have spoiled peace talks with the oil industry. A major breakthrough in the national strike had been chalked up when an 18½ cent increase was won from Standard Oil of California.

St. Joseph, Mich.—UE Local 931 has, after seven months delay by the wage freeze board, secured approval of wage gains amounting to \$100,000 a year for workers at the Whirlpool Corp.

Atlantic City—Delegates at the CIO Clothing Workers convention heard Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas declare that the U. S. cannot regain moral leadership in the world "with guns and money."

## Retailers Ask Housewives To Quit Buying Potatoes

CLEVELAND, May 16—Representatives of 6,000 food stores—mostly super markets—yesterday urged the nation's housewives to quit buying potatoes.

They claimed the potato industry is profiteering in its dealings with retailers. The dealers made these remarks in a resolution passed at a convention of the Super Market Institute. They said, too, they would conduct a

"don't buy potatoes" campaign through advertising. The institute's president, S. N. Goldman, Oklahoma City, accused the potato industry of "every conceivable type of connivance and outright high-jacking" in its price policies. Goldman said retailers are "forced to absorb unusual charges, take tie-in sales with high priced cucumbers and onions and pay side money of 30 cents to \$1 or more per hundredweight for potatoes."

PRICE SQUEEZE. Even the big super markets were rebelling at efforts of the big profit boys to get all the traffic will bear through a big price mark-up on potatoes, as the item above from the Union-Star indicates. What they failed to say is that it proves again the wage freeze should be ended as price control is strictly phony.

## Potato 'Famine' Exposes Cause for Price Jumps

The old employer trick of trying to blame price increases on wage increases wasn't working out so well last week—but the nation's consumers suffered all the same from the plot to push up potato prices by creating a false scarcity.

As government surveys have shown, employers get \$10 in increases for every \$1 in wage increases, as steel owners are now trying to do—but they time the price increases to follow wage increases to put the blame on the workers.

The potato "famine" also proved the falseness of claims that prices are "stabilized" while wages are frozen.

In Schenectady, a 13 store spot check by UE member Albert Vanderzee revealed that consumers are being held up to the tune of 2 lbs. for 25 cents at the Super Market, 5 lbs. for 39 cents at Scholz Market, 5 lbs. for 37 cents at Empire Super Market, 3 lbs. for 35 cents at Super State St. Market, with similar prices at other stores where potatoes were available.

### Call IUE-CIO's Bluff In Two GE Plants

The IUE-CIO got set back last week in its attempts at disruption at the GE Ft. Edward and Hudson Falls plants.

Twice in the last year the IUE-CIO has filed petitions for elections at these two plants, both times when UE was in the midst of negotiations with the company.

UE demanded this year that IUE-CIO either "put up or shut up" and called for an immediate election. The IUE-CIO failed to even show at an NLRB hearing in Albany and this week the NLRB in Washington dismissed the IUE-CIO's petition.

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. 10:** A group of hydrogen furnace operators demand a revaluation from B to A with an increased rate on the basis they're now required to work to very close tolerances on shrinkage of Alnico magnets.

**Bldg. 10C:** Santina Di Dio, Helen Daring and Helen Carruthers protest that a job always done by B assemblers in Bldg. 28 was cut to C when it was transferred to Bldg. 10C, with the job content remaining the same. They charge this is a violation of contract article VI (2) and demand the B classification be restored and B assemblers assigned to the job.

A group of women on drill press work under Foreman H. Syzomirski demand \$1.34 on piece-work, day-work instead of \$1.31. They also ask that efforts be made to cut down on PWDW by rescheduling the work to be done by set up men and they protest operators having to get vouchers, material and fixtures for their work without being compensated for doing part of the set up.

Margaret Sliter and Frances Kopacki protest reducing to C the gun heater job that was always done by B assemblers. They charge a violation of contract article VI (2) and demand the job remain B and C operators not assigned to the job.

**Bldg. 17:** James Harrington demands a time study or revision of price so he can make out. A job was moved from small two inch stroke presses to four inch large stroke presses where the conditions on large presses slow up the job to the point it is impossible to make out.

A group under Foreman J. Tryon demand that the long standing practice be continued in the iron shed of rotating crane followers between the front and rear of the building every other week. This has been done primarily to evenly distribute the work level.

**Bldg. 46:** Troy Snipes charges he was penalized through no fault of his own and requests eight hours average earnings. Told to set up eight different piece work jobs and encountering fixture and other trouble on all eight, the foreman only wants to pay some set ups and waiting time for the rest.

**Bldg. 49:** A group under Foreman E. Snyder complains that two men not inspectors were made class A inspectors with a job on the first shift. The group insists that upgrading to first shift should be offered to them first and that there are B inspectors on the job who should have been upgraded before hiring any new inspectors.

H. Wilday and E. Murphy request a review and increase in line with their work. They claim their assembly performance is as good as the rest of the group and have received no merit increase for some time.

A group under Foreman P. Sotile is working under protest until their job is discussed with management. They charge a price on a job resulted from a time study that was never properly negotiated and not taken on a regular or average operator.

A group of polishers under Fore-

man M. Hall feel enough time had elapsed so that piece work prices can be made standard and request it immediately.

A group of B packers demand a reclassification to A with an adjusted rate. They say this rate is warranted because of work they're performing and responsibilities involved.

A milling machine group under Foreman R. Boles object to methods used by planning and wage rate in trying to establish method checks for purpose of establishing and cutting standard prices and demand the practice stop immediately.

Stephen Joziomokowski, classified as accumulator, demands Foreman Coville cease trying to get him to accept loading of trailers as part of his job. He charges discrimination because he has enough accumulator's work to keep him busy.

**Bldg. 59:** John E. Oddy requests he be confined within his classification. Breaking in as an accumulator, Oddy was told to go from Bldg. 59 where he is breaking in to the oil house to do lift truck driving and high tiering.

**Bldg. 60:** Joseph Zingoni demands he be given his old screw machine job with a rate adjustment. He was taken off it due to decreased production schedules to do material handling. Production has increased to point it permits Zingoni to be returned to his job of operator.

C. J. Gelina requests a transfer from second to first shift on first available opening or be sent to Bldg. One for other possible openings. Supervisor stalled him for three weeks and then told him they couldn't solve his problem.

The entire group under Foreman Shannon requests four hours call-in pay for time lost on May 5, 6. The foreman had promised they'd be paid but failed to turn in for the time.

The group under Foreman Shannon request an investigation of his maneuver when he laid off the group due to lack of work and did not notify the group one week in advance according to the national UE agreement. Shannon failed to specify that it was a temporary lack of work or give any other reason.

**Bldg. 69:** A group of assemblers charge they're unable to maintain earnings because they are continually changed from one job to another, preventing them from attaining normal speed and efficiency on any one job. Also, they charge, these jobs are not timed or priced so they can main-

tain earnings. They demand steps to correct the situation.

Ada Jaycox and Amelia Duszynski charge contract article VI, 5 (d) was violated as a result of a change of method on packing jobs that cut a number of standard jobs. They request retiming the change affected in order to get a satisfactory price so that they will be able to maintain their previous earnings.

Short order drill press work under Foreman J. Plichta has been on day work since 1947. Neither the group or steward was notified the job would go on piece work on May 12, 1952, ignoring the Union contract, which specifies that any job classification change shall be subject to one week's notice and subject to local negotiations. An investigation is demanded.

**Bldg. 76:** Frank Topka, Joseph Parette and Earl Miller demand the proper job rate for the B mill work they have been doing and only getting the bottom B rate for five years.

**Bldg. 81:** Albert J. Serapilio requests a job on welding in line with GE policy to show cognizance of special efforts made by employees to better themselves and increase their value. Serapilio last July completed 300 hours of supervised instruction in electric and acetylene welding in flat, vertical and overhead positions at the Modern Welding School.

**Bldg. 273:** A group wants unsafe conditions cleared up. They cite such practices as using a six inch diameter abrasive wheel running at high speed of 6,000 RPM to grind the weld of turbine fabrications with or without the use of guards, room in aisles is not adequate, with the men in many instances having to use the aisle as a working area because of limited space and the fact jobs are piled sky-high without regard to safety.

A welders group demands an investigation of their protest that new men with less service are assigned to first shift jobs, despite the fact they've requested first shift and some have submitted doctor's certificates verifying the need for such a change.

A group demands an investigation of their protest of a timing rate of 78 cents set for the portable and hand milling machines. They charge it isn't comparable to rates for similar work.

R. W. Tortorici demands a change in starting rate to \$1.65, based on his previous experience, background and Article VI-6-a-3 of the Union contract. Hired as assembler erector class C at a starting rate of \$1.47, the regular job rate is \$1.76.

A group under Foreman E. Peck demand an investigation as to why workers in floor assembly are not being upgraded according to the Union contract.

Second and third shift groups in the hot booth, under Foreman M. Ferro, object to methods supervision uses, citing two welders from the floor gang on second shift who were assigned day work in the hot booth. They insist that on available openings for days the second and third shift hot booth groups should be given first consideration. M. Beers, who went from miscel-

laneous machine group to B lagger, demands his job rate after six months, which would make it effective on April 24, 1952. He cites five other workers who got their rate as B lagger's after six months.

Roscoe Soules, with 11 years welding experience, was hired in April, 1951, but was not started two steps below the job rate as the contract provides. He demands a retroactive adjustment of his job rate.

Frank A. Droms complains that inspection desks under the crane track get oil drips on papers and clothing and management for two years has done nothing about it. He demands that existing oil drip pan be extended to correct the situation.

Anthony Damiano, doing highly specialized welding which is over and beyond the welding classification as such, demands a revaluation and reclassification to the highest rate of welding—specialist.

**Bldg. 285:** Three winding jobs brought from Bldg. 89 to 285 were cut in price without notification to the Union—a violation of contract. A further violation occurred when local supervision tried to sell prices to an individual and then held a group meeting to try to sell the price—ignoring the Union in all cases. An immediate discussion is demanded.

**Campbell Ave.:** Tony Loika demands reclassification to mason helper with proper rate adjustment, with retroactive pay of two years. Loika has performed work of higher classifications such as cementing foundations to large machines, using pneumatic drills and hammers and laying wooden blocks.

A group demands a revaluation and a two step increased rate of the sixfoil prototype job. They cite the fact this was previously started in Bldg. 28 toolroom in 1942 and until a recent date toolmakers were utilized on the job. Some toolmakers have been eliminated and machinists added, with the job rate cut to \$2.09½.

## Protest Moving Jobs To Hackensack Plant

A written grievance docket has been filed with GE at the management level protesting the contemplated moving of a number of jobs from Bldg. 73A to a plant in Hackensack, N. J.

Involved are 40 jobs that are now done in 73A. The jobs are work now done on cabinet controls, J-52 cases. Information the workers obtained is that the jobs when moved to Hackensack will pay a great deal more money than now paid in the Schenectady Works.

The sheet metal group in 73A has filed the grievance.

## Correction

The comments of Mary Barle at the '301' Women's Demonstration on May 7, which were printed in last week's issue, erroneously gave the impression that the job she described was in Bldg. 28. The job she described is in Bldg. 12, where she used to work. She now works in Bldg. 28.



**LEGISLATIVE ACTION.** Helping out UE Local 301 in its stepped up legislative activity, both state and national, in recent months has been Clifford McAvoy, UE District Three Legislative Representative, seen above addressing a recent meeting of the '301' executive board. The full board is the Union's legislative committee, with a subcommittee of five that meets between board meetings.

## Seven Women In Knolls Laboratory Win 7 Cent Rate Adjustment

Seven women in the Knolls research laboratory have won a seven cent increase as a result of action by their shop stewards. Steward Al Punchak secured the increase for four coil winders on bench assembly under Foreman Stanley Nelson because of the intricate work involved and the introduction of a new machine. The rate is upped for three from \$1.40 to \$1.47 as of April 21, with the fourth getting it in two months on progression.

Steward Ed. O'Brien secured an

increase of \$1.40 to \$1.47 for three women on development work under Foreman Irving Peabody. Basis for this increase was that it was proved over a period of years their work required more skill and know-

## Members Flood Congress With Smith Bill Protests

Reports from throughout the Works last week indicated that meetings called by shop stewards to discuss the union-busting bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Howard Smith (D., Va.) were resulting in a torrent of postcards being sent to Rep. Patrick Kearney and Senators Lehman and Ives urging their opposition to this bill.

Stewards at meetings of the groups were stressing that this Smith bill, which takes up where Taft-Hartley left off, would deny workers their right to bargain collectively, to settle grievances and destroy labor's 150 year old right to strike.

## Other Unions Protest

Major unions in the country were registering their opposition. The CIO Steelworkers termed it a "slavery" bill and "government by injunction at its worst." AFL Pres. William Green asserted it "infuriates labor organizations . . . as a red flag infuriates a bull." Conventions of the CIO Packinghouse and Amalgamated Clothing Workers condemned it, as did the independent Fur & Leather Workers.

A top CIO spokesman asserted "The very existence of our unions is threatened and no employer would have any incentive to settle a labor dispute" under this bill.

## Wire Enamellers Win Six Cent Boost

A group of 40 wire enamellers in Bldg. 109 have secured a six cents an hour increase as compensation for increased work that the company has instituted in their department.

The increase was won as a result of a concerted fight the group put up to halt an arbitrary attempt by GE to get more work for the same rate of pay.

The company on April 25 announced it was increasing the work load. When the workers attempted to discuss the problem with their foremen, they were told they would either take it or go home. The result was that the workers went home until management four days later agreed to sit down and discuss the grievance on May 5.

The grievance was resolved after several meetings and a study made of the operation. Participating in these sessions were Pres. James J. Cognetta, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani and Steward Ralph Lasher.

## Upstate Skilled Craftsmen Conference Set for May 25

Over 100 tool and die makers and skilled building trades craftsmen from the GE Schenectady Works are expected to go by chartered bus to an upstate Tool-Die-Skilled Craftsmen Conference in Syracuse on Sunday, May 25.

Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in the Assembly Hall of the Onondaga War Memorial Building, the

'301' skilled craftsmen will join craftsmen from a variety of plants in upstate New York in seeking common action to end the employer created freeze on their rates.

The Call to the conference, signed by 41 skilled workers from 34 plants, of various AFL, CIO and independent union affiliation and non-union, stresses the need to put into effect the ceilings recommended for tool and die workers by a Wage Stabilization Board panel last fall—and over-ridden by employer and public members of the full WSB.

Those recommendations are seen in the chart on the left.

In making its recommendations, the WSB panel stated:

" . . . There is no question but that the percentage differential between unskilled rates and skilled tool and die rates has narrowed appreciably since about 1940."

The WSB panel also stated: "There is general agreement that skill requirements of a competent journeyman (in manufacturing) are higher than those for most building journeymen and that wage rates are substantially lower."

"Numerous instances were cited to the committee of production incentive jobs of semi-skilled character on which earnings substantially equal or exceed hourly rates for journeymen, toolmakers and diemakers."

An illustration of this fact was given in a Bureau of Labor Statistics study of rates in the machinery industry in a number of cities in late 1951, which is shown in chart on the right, above.

## BLS Comparison

	Tool and Die Maker	Milling Machine Operator A Incentive
Jersey City,		
Newark	\$2.11	\$2.16
Philadelphia	\$2.04	\$2.24
Chicago	\$2.18	\$2.05
St. Louis	\$2.21	\$2.13
Cleveland	\$2.13	\$2.22
Buffalo	\$1.96	\$2.08

The figures in the chart above show that, although the skill of a tool and die maker is rated considerably above the millwright machine operator A, the milling machine operator on incentive in four out of the six cities had a higher hourly rate.

In the two cities where tool and die makers had the higher rate, the difference fell far short of the greater degree of skill required.

At the upstate conference in Syracuse on Sunday, UE delegates will participate with skilled craftsmen from many shops to map a campaign to put the WSB panel recommendations into effect—recommendations that employers by a united fight succeeded in killing last fall.

## WSB Panel Findings

Job Shop	Mfg. Plants	Area
Maxima	Maxima	
\$2.85	\$2.60	Detroit (Five County area)
		Toledo
\$2.75	\$2.60	Chicago
\$2.65	\$2.65	San Francisco Bay Area
\$2.65	\$2.50	Cleveland, Dayton, Kansas City, San Diego, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Newark, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and E. St. Louis
\$2.60	\$2.50	Buffalo and Niagara Frontier Area, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Rochester, N. Y.
\$2.55	\$2.45	Cincinnati, Indianapolis
\$2.50	\$2.40	Boston and Worcester, Bristol, Hartford, Bridgeport and Lower Conn. Valley, Providence, Syracuse

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