

## UE Campaign Won for Jobless Pay Benefits On Vacation Shutdown; State Reverses Rule

The State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance has reversed its ruling which disallowed unemployment insurance claims of workers who received no pay during all or part of a vacation shutdown.

UE had waged a vigorous fight against the ruling, through petitions, meetings with state officials and picketing of unemployment insurance offices in Schenectady and elsewhere. Appeals were filed in several Local 301 cases and by UE District 3 in cases involving the Syracuse GE plant and other locals.

...These appeals were still pending however, when the Advisory Council, policy making body of the State Unemployment Insurance Division, ordered the division to reverse its stand. Even the state publicity release—acknowledged there "have been a considerable number of contests of this ruling," according to the Associated Press.

C. E. Mounteer, director of the Claims Bureau of the Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance, summarized the new policy as follows:

When claims were disallowed as the result of vacation lay-off (whether in a union or non-union establishment) and there is no question involved about an indefinite return to work, the state will allow unemployment insurance benefits to individuals who didn't receive vacation pay for all or any part of the period of the lay-off. Such workers must have been available for employment, however.

The union office urges members to protect their rights as follows:

If any Local 301 member, who didn't get vacation pay for all or part of a vacation shutdown, didn't get his unemployment insurance card signed because the unemployment insurance office told him not to file, he is now entitled to press his claim. He should consult the union office at once.

People who didn't apply for unemployment insurance because they heard or read about the ruling and believed they were ineligible also are entitled to file their claims now. They also should contact the union promptly.

### \$100 to Chest

The 301 Executive Board Monday night voted a \$100 donation to the Schenectady Community Chest drive.

### Proposed Rules For Meeting

By unanimous vote of the 301 Executive Board the following rules concerning the conduct of membership meetings will be recommended to the 301 membership meeting Oct. 18 and 19.

1. "Any member who refuses to behave in an orderly manner shall be removed from the meeting by the nearest available two deputy sergeants-at-arms.

2. "Because week-end meetings have proved to be impractical, Local 301 is obliged to hold its membership meetings in two parts—first a session for the first and third shifts, then a session for the second shift.

"There must be an end to the activity witnessed at the last second shift meeting, where some loud first shifters made it impossible for the second shift to have their own discussion.

"The Executive Board therefore proposes:

"Members attending the session other than the one scheduled for their shift shall sit in the rear. Members attending their own scheduled meeting shall have prior rights to the available seats. At the opening of each meeting, the chairman shall call on members from another shift to identify themselves and move to the rear.

"Members shall have prior right to the floor at the meeting scheduled for their shift, and shall have the right to speak on an issue before any member from another shift, except that officers and delegates and committee chairmen making official reports shall have equal rights to the floor at both meetings.

"Any motion of substance, not procedure, which is voted on at the first part of the meeting shall automatically be placed in the same form before the second part of the meeting for a vote, at the appropriate agenda point."

### 301 Constitution

Copies of the Local 301 constitution are now available at the union hall for members.

## Tough Guy



### UE Fights GE Policy On Forced Retirement

For a long time UE has been carrying on a fight against the GE policy of compulsory retirement of employees.

This fight has been held up by a court injunction GE obtained to stop the union from taking the matter to arbitration. UE has appealed from this injunction and is waiting for a decision.

The union favors the lowest practicable retirement age provided it is voluntary and provided the retired worker will receive a pension adequate for him to live on decently.

**UE Demands Arbitration**  
The first case which UE tried to have arbitrated was that of a Schenectady worker who was forced to retire. This case had to be withdrawn last March, a few weeks after the demand for arbitration was made, because of the man's death.

Later in March the union filed a demand with the American Arbitration Association for arbitration of a similar case involving three GE workers at Providence, R. I. GE last August obtained a Supreme Court order in New York state stopping the American Arbitration Association from holding the arbitration. The union has appealed.

Meanwhile a judge in Ohio, in

another case involving GE, ruled that the company cannot discharge employees merely because of age, even though they are given pensions. The ruling was made by Judge A. V. Bowmann of the Common Pleas Court in a case brought by the International Association of Machinists against the Electric Vacuum Cleaner Division of GE.

The company had notified 26 men and women last February that they would be discharged but that those eligible would receive pensions. The IAM claimed there was no reason for firing them except that the men were over 65 and the women over 60.

"Retirement implies at least part of the motive power must originate in the person whose status is to be changed," Judge Bowmann said. He pointed out that no charge of inefficiency was made against the workers.

GE undoubtedly will appeal from this decision.

### Did You Know?

Through repeal of the excess profits tax the General Electric Company saved an estimated \$90 million in taxes in 1948, much more than the cost of the wage increase.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. &amp; M. W. A.

C. I. O.

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## What Will We Use for Money?



News Item: Vice-President Chester H. Lang of GE in a speech in Philadelphia said that the only reason people aren't buying more electrical products, and other things, is lack of "aggressive selling."

### Turbine Stewards Meet with Male

A large committee of Turbine Division shop stewards met last week with Works Manager Lewis J. Male and was scheduled to meet with him again yesterday over a long list of division grievances.

The grievances were mostly connected with the move to the new building. A recent special meeting of division shop stewards with Business Agent Leo Jandreau elected the special committee and specified the grievances.

On the firing of a third shift worker for sleeping, Male insisted on backing up the firing despite the union's evidence that the man was ill and that the first charge of sleeping was untrue. The case is being moved to the New York level.

On the company plan to downgrade part of the big boring mill work, Male agreed that the company would not attempt to use the proposed new lower timing

rate for roughing work without one week's notice to the union office and shop steward. He said he was still studying the question.

The committee also brought up the serious lack of work condition developing in parts of the division.

The list of grievances under discussion also covers issues of speed-up and piece work prices, the attitude of foremen, third shift hours, seniority, and complaints about working conditions and service.

Stewards on the committee include Arthur T. Shannon, Michael

(Continued on Page 2)

### Unemployment Office To Be Open Tomorrow

The Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office will be open tomorrow (Saturday) from 9 a. m. until noon to handle claims of workers who were not paid during all or part of a vacation shutdown. The state recently reversed its policy of rejecting such claims, after a vigorous campaign against the ruling by UE.

There were 3,853 jobless workers registered with the Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office as of Oct. 7.

### 301 Meeting on Negotiations Thursday

Leo Jandreau will report on GE contract negotiations at a special 301 membership meeting next week. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in the state armory in Washington Ave. for first and third shift workers and later that night, at 12:45 a.m., at the union hall for second shift workers, after the end of the shift.

Because of the importance of the meeting the Executive Board voted unanimously to rent the armory. For identification, every member must bring his 301 membership card for the last quarter of 1949 and his GE badge or card.

## RCA Batters Offer After Strike Vote

### GE Talks Continue

Negotiations with GE were resumed in New York Wednesday and were scheduled to continue yesterday. The company stated last week it would give its answer on every point in the union's proposal this week. No report on this week's bargaining sessions was available when this paper went to press.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau will make a complete report to the 301 membership at the special meeting at the Armory next Thursday night, followed by a second shift meeting at the union hall after midnight. (See notice on this page.)

### RCA Negotiations

In the meantime, a big strike vote brought a breakthrough for UE this week at the Radio Corporation of America, one of the major companies under contract.

The membership of the four RCA plants was scheduled to vote yesterday on the company's latest offer, which goes substantially beyond the recommendations of the Steel Board of Inquiry.

RCA had previously offered to meet the Steel "fact-finding" recommendations. It pointed out that it was now spending 5.1 cents on hour per employee on pensions and insurance and under the Steel panel report would only have to spend another 4.9 cents an hour.

The Steel Board of Inquiry refused to recommend any wage increase and recommended a total of 10 cents for insurance and pensions. Of this 10 cents 6 cents for pensions would not have to be granted until next spring. And from the 10 cents the companies could deduct any existing payments for insurance or pensions.

The UE membership in the RCA plants, in Camden, N. J., Palanski, (Continued on Page 2)

# WIN THE 35 HOUR WEEK TO SAFEGUARD JOBS

## RCA Improves Contract Offer

(Continued from Page 1)

Va., Lancaster, Pa., and Hollywood, Calif., rejected the offer. Then they voted strike authorization, by margins ranging from 4 to 1 to 9 to 1.

### New RCA Offer

The new RCA offer is 8 cents in Camden and 9 1/2 cents in the other plants. It is being applied as follows:

A wage increase of 3 1/2 cents an hour; this is raised to 5 1/2 cents an hour by the company taking over the cost of an insurance plan toward which the workers have been paying 2 cents an hour;

Complete insurance, hospitalization, and sick benefits; one additional paid holiday, making 7 paid holidays per year; a 3-week vacation after 10 years instead of 15, with pro rata over 2 weeks from 5 to 10 years;

Internal wage inequality adjustments at the Pulaski and Lancaster plants.

The contract runs to June 1, 1951, with a reopening on wages and other economic issues sixty days before June 1, 1950.

Westinghouse negotiations continued this week. Discussions on Wednesday were on pensions and insurance.

## Turbine Stewards

(Continued from Page 1)

DeCelli, Roy Lash, Louis Pannone, Frank Baumgartner, Edward Wallingford, Leland Bellinger, George Roode, B. L. Ferial, Edward Noisieux, Casmer Ceglarski, Marvin Rumrill, John Maletta, George Crandall, Casmer Kisowski, T. T. Wheeler, Earl H. Groat, Charles Wood, John Kilmer, Ray Fredericks, John Marshall, Edward Kearney and Joseph Alois, and Board Members William A. Stewart and Sam Scott. They are assisted by Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, and Helen Quirini and Leo Sisto, grievance committee members this month.

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## 301 Meeting Elects White as Treasurer

The 301 membership meeting this week elected Shop Steward Marshall White

of Building 13, treasurer to fill the remainder of the term of William Downs, who resigned on leaving the plant. White was elected by an overwhelming vote (standing vote) over Shop Steward Carmine DiGiralamo of Building 69.

The election was postponed from the September membership meeting because of the pressure of business. A former treasurer of 301, White has been serving as acting treasurer by Executive Board appointment pending the election.



White

## UE Files Affidavits

The national UE office last week filed with the Taft-Hartley Board in Washington the affidavits and financial statements required in order for UE to appear on the ballot in Taft-Hartley Board elections. The affidavits were signed by the general officers: President Albert J. Fitzgerald; Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak; Director of Organization James J. Matles, and the vice-presidents, who include Leo Jandreau.

## Rules For Meetings Approved by 301

Rules recommended unanimously by the Executive Board to improve the conduct of membership meetings were unanimously approved by the 301 membership meeting this week.

One rule is that any member who refuses to behave in an orderly manner shall be removed by the nearest two deputy sergeants-at-arms.

Another rule establishes for members attending the session scheduled for their own shift the prior right to seats and the prior right to speak, over members from another shift. Members attending a session scheduled for another shift must sit in the rear and identify themselves. Any motion of substance, not procedure, which is voted on at the first part of a meeting shall be automatically placed in the same form before the second part of the meeting.

## Voice of GE

### Union-Star Wants CIO to Expel UE

After two years of interference with UE's business through lying stories in its news columns, the Schenectady Union-Star on Monday ran an editorial demanding that the CIO expel UE as a "red union."

The editorial made very clear what the Union-Star meant by a "red union." It meant a union which insists on taking orders from the membership instead of from a group of high-paid top officials of CIO.

The Union-Star, of course, is the paper which in the past year has most faithfully carried out the GE's aim of spreading confusion and disunity in the membership of 301. Its so-called news stories have consistently lied about the simplest facts of internal matters in 301.

### What Are Real Motives?

Now the Union-Star says CIO should expel democratic-run unions so as to strengthen the CIO. You are asked to believe that the Union-Star wants the labor movement to be stronger. Presumably the Union-Star also wants GE workers to force a 35-hour week and a big raise out of GE. Now you tell one!

The Union-Star editorial welcomes the supposed fact that UE and some other unions in CIO "face suspension unless they purge themselves of present leadership." In other words, to satisfy the Union-Star, the membership must not be allowed to pick its leadership. Outsiders must do it.

### Ignore the Facts

The Union-Star of course plays fast and loose with facts. It says that the Farm Equipment Workers are defying CIO "by merging" with UE. The fact is that the FE leadership is putting the question to a referendum vote of the membership.

For weeks the Union-Star has been trying to confuse 301 members with the lie that UE wants to withdraw from CIO. Now its editorial states:

"The electrical workers and some others apparently intend to fight out from the CIO."

Then the editorial demands that CIO throw UE out if it does not "bow" to the "orders" of CIO. The Union-Star serves GE well. It serves neither democracy nor

## Templeton Appointment Okayed by Membership

Appointment of William Templeton as an assistant to the business agent was unanimously approved by the 301 membership meeting this week, on unanimous recommendation of the Executive Board.



Templeton

Templeton was named in August to succeed William J. Kelly, who decided to return to his job in the Turbine Division when his maximum three-year leave of absence from the plant ended.

Templeton's appointment was to be acted on at the August and September meetings, but action was postponed because of the pressure of business. Templeton has been succeeded on the Executive Board by Shop Steward Lewis Craft of Building 13 (shop electric) pending an election for the Board post.

## Board Statements Approved by 301

The 301 membership meeting this week approved statements adopted by the Executive Board that:

1. Urged the membership to unite against the efforts of James B. Carey and his followers to wreck the union.

2. Declared that the attempt of President Frank Kriss to adjourn the membership meeting at the armory Sept. 29 was illegal and declared the Sept. 29 meeting adopted the report of the 301 delegates to the UE convention.

The statement on the Carey group pointed out that all talk of "right wing" and "left wing" only feeds the division which "the outside forces behind Carey are trying to create." It emphasized that there is always room for honest differences of opinion and honest contests for office within UE, but that the fight against the Carey group "is the fight of the membership against those who would destroy the union to help the employers."

The 301 Board members at their last meeting contributed for a gift for him.

Flanigan is being temporarily replaced on the Executive Board by Shop Steward Earl H. Groat of Building 49.

## Settle Singer Strike At Elizabeth Plant

The UE Local 401 strike at the Singer Sewing Machine Company at Elizabeth, N. J., has been settled by an agreement which improved conditions which existed at the plant and improved on the terms of the Bridgeport local's settlement.

Gains achieved by Elizabeth strikers included securing a permanent umpire to handle grievances rising about piece work under the incentive system. A piece work grievance will be sent to an umpire within 6 to 13 days, instead of dragging along for weeks and months while the worker suffered from unfair rates.

In Elizabeth, people on piece work will continue to receive average earnings for time when the machine is idle through no fault of their own.

Local 401 also won a broadening of seniority protection and fought off company efforts to saddle it with a clause like Bridgeport's, letting the company select a large group of people for super-seniority for "special value and qualifications to the company."

The 2 cent to 6 cent wage increases for day workers were only part of what could have been secured in wages except for the betrayal of the strike by the settlement agreed to by Bridgeport leaders, followers of James Carey. Even so the Elizabeth local secured increases for 2,000 hourly paid employees.

The Bridgeport leadership knifed the Elizabeth workers just at the point where real progress was being made in negotiating a good settlement. The company showed willingness to negotiate a decent contract at a meeting Sept. 12 with the Elizabeth committee. Two days later its attitude changed completely, after a secret deal was made between Tom Williams, president of the Bridgeport Singer local, and the company.

## Flanigan in Hospital

Executive Board Member Ray Flanigan is ill at St. Clare's Hospital where he was taken from his home Oct. 8. His condition has improved in the past week and he has been allowed to see visitors.

The 301 Board members at their last meeting contributed for a gift for him.

Flanigan is being temporarily replaced on the Executive Board by Shop Steward Earl H. Groat of Building 49.

## 301 Votes to Help Steelworkers' Strike

The 301 membership meeting this week voted unanimously to back the Steelworkers' strike with moral and financial support. The amount of the financial contribution was left up to the Executive Board.

As the 301 shop stewards and Executive Board pointed out in a statement recently, a press campaign has already started to blame the miners and steel workers for lay-offs in other industries.

"We must understand clearly that the mine owners and steel companies bear the whole blame," the statement declared.

This week Schenectady newspapers gave prominent space to lay-offs at the Erie, Pa., GE which management blamed on the steel strike.

## Union Wins Back Pay For 8 in Building 17

Back pay, won for eight Building 17 workers through union grievance procedure, was issued last week by GE. The individual amounts varied from \$89 down. Several of the workers involved are short service men who are out of the plant now for lack of work.

The grievance was filed in March by Shop Steward J. A. Martin with the assistance of Board Member Sidney Friedlander. It concerned rates paid on set-up work done by piece work punch-press operators on a day work basis under a peculiar system existing only in Building 17, in an index group.

Settlement was reached on the New York level on a compromise basis.

## Jandreau, Running Mates Elected to UE District

Local 301 will be represented for the next year on the UE District 3 Council by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, Board Members Joseph Kelly, William Stewart and William Mastriani, and by Phil Cagnetta of Building 52.

They were elected at the 301 membership meeting this week, defeating the following candidates: President Frank Kriss, Recording Secretary Frank Fiorillo, Martin Stanton of Building 69, and Shop Stewards John Warren of Building 278 and John Rej of Building 42.

The vote was as follows: Jandreau, 333; Mastriani, 323; Kelly and Stewart, 322 each; Cagnetta, 319; Kriss, 92; Fiorillo, 82; Stanton, 81; Warren, 76, and Rej, 75.

## FE Members to Vote On Merging with UE

Numerous stories have appeared in the anti-labor press to the effect that the Farm Equipment Workers, CIO, were planning "secretly" to join UE, and that such action would be "contrary to a CIO directive."

The simple fact is that the general executive board of the Farm Equipment union is recommending affiliation with UE, and that the decision will be made by the membership in a referendum. That means that the decision will be strictly up to the only people who have the right to make the decision — the workers.

The background of the proposed merger is as follows:

### Attacked by UAW

The United Auto Workers Reuther leadership has been demanding control over Farm Equipment (FE) for some time. More than a year ago the Auto Workers organized a raid against FE at the Caterpillar Tractor Works in Peoria, Ill. The union was on strike and was under violent attack by the company and every reactionary force in the city. The UAW smashed the strike.

Then the UAW was able to have the executive board of the national CIO adopt a resolution, in November 1946, ordering FE to affiliate with the Auto Workers. This order was rejected by every local of the FE and by a special convention of FE.

### FE Rejects UAW Merger

Despite this membership decision, the national CIO leadership proceeded to back the Auto Workers in a nationwide campaign of raiding against every local of FE. In one attempted raid alone the Auto Worker leadership spent half a million dollars. The Auto Workers petitioned for Taft-Hart-

## Second Shift Holds Plant Gate Meeting

Because of rain, the plant-gate meeting for second shift workers last week was postponed from Wednesday to Thursday at 6 p.m. The program was the same as at the first and third shift meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday. Vice-President William Hodges read a statement by Business Agent Leo Jandreau. President Frank Kriss, who presided, called for unity behind the contract demands and so did members of the Executive Board.

Several hundred second shifters didn't hear about the postponement and left their jobs Wednesday to meet at 6 p.m. Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, read them the Jandreau statement on contract negotiations and GE's refusal to settle grievances.

## UE Continues Fight To Renew 52-20

Pointing out that hundreds of thousands of veterans are in urgent need of unemployment insurance benefits, Albert J. Fitzgerald, president of UE, recently called upon the heads of all veterans' organizations to join this union in putting pressure on Congressional leaders to get the 81st Congress to reinstate "52-20."

Despite this, the FE members rejected the Auto Workers in one election after another, and preserved their union.

Then last May the CIO executive board passed a resolution declaring that since the FE had refused to obey what the resolution called "CIO policy," the board would recommend that the next CIO Convention revoke the FE charter.

If FE joins UE, it will be because the members want it, and see that such action is the way to preserve control by the membership in every local of FE.

## Did You Get Your Membership Card?

The practice has now been established in Local 301 of requiring every member to identify himself at membership meetings by his current 301 membership card and GE badge or card. Any member who hasn't his membership card should fill out the form below and hand it to his shop steward. There is space for him to mark if he needs a membership card and space to mark if he isn't getting the UE News.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have no 301 membership card for the last quarter (October, November, December) of 1949.  
 I do not receive the national UE News.