

Electrical Union News

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO

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Scotia Mayor Endorses Union Fight to Win Wage Increase

No Merit Rating, Committee Urges

Legislative Committee of Local 301 asks all members to study the "merit rating" bills now before the state legislature and to do their part to block these "steals" from the working people by informing Governor Dewey and Assemblyman Oswald Heck of their position on the measures by card or letter.

"Merit rating" is an old dodge to cut benefits for workers through the unemployment insurance fund and reduce payments by employers. Similar bills were introduced in 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944. Now they have been introduced again. ALL ORGANIZED LABOR IS UNITED IN ITS OPPOSITION TO "MERIT RATING."

WHAT "MERIT RATING" MEANS

1. What is "merit rating": At present employers contribute 2.7% of their covered payrolls to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. The percentage tax is the same for all employers. Under "merit rating," rates may vary from .00% to .04% and even higher in some States. "Merit rating" would therefore unfairly penalize employers in unstable industries for conditions largely beyond their control. On the other hand, it would reward employers in stable industries merely because they enjoy the good fortune to operate in a relatively stable market. Stable industries like public utility, finance and insurance companies are generally in stronger financial condition than unstable industries. Yet, under "merit rating" they are to receive tax reductions at the expense of financially weaker industrial units, particularly those with seasonal trade.

2. How is organized labor involved: Since "merit rating" involves a change in the system of contribution payments by employers to organized labor which has a vital stake in maintaining the solvency and adequacy of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

3. What does "merit rating" mean to the individual worker: First, some large employers will pay less to the Unemployment Insurance Fund than their smaller competitors; secondly, the amount of money collected annually by the Fund will be cut by approximately 57%; thirdly, to make up for this loss, the next step by "merit rating" supporters will be to de-

mand direct workers' contributions to the Fund or to recommend a cut in unemployment insurance benefits for the individual worker; fourthly, it will result in excessive delay, "red tape," and dispute in collecting deserved claims.

EXTEND BENEFITS

Instead of "merit rating" which is a direct threat to the postwar security of all workers in New York, the New York State CIO urges that benefits be liberalized along the lines proposed by the CIO. Your Legislative Representative has introduced the following measures to extend benefits:

- 1—Reduce the waiting period from eight to four days.
- 2—Extend weekly payments from twenty to twenty-six weeks a year.
- 3—Raise cash benefits.
- 4—Pay an additional \$2.00 for each dependent of an unemployed worker.
- 5—Pay unemployment insurance benefits to sick or disabled workers not receiving compensation.
- 6—Extend the unemployment insurance program to cover all workers.

Servicemen's Shows Replace CIO Minstrel

The Activities Committee of Local 301 has altered its plans for the immediate future and is now planning on organizing entertainment troupes for the purpose of entertaining servicemen at vicinity posts, depots and hospitals. Anyone possessing talent and who wishes to take part in this effort are requested to contact union headquarters at once.

MINSTREL OFF
It was decided by the committee to call off the planned CIO minstrel show due to the fact that it became evident that there is a shortage of male talent since

A resolution calling for congressional action in case the War Labor Board does not recommend the upward revision of the "Little Steel Formula" has been presented by the Legislative Committee of Local 301 to various local civic leaders and groups as part of the intensified effort to gain the 17c

Mrs. Iovinelli Conducts Survey For Labor Dept.

Sixty-six local women employed in the GE plant have been interviewed recently by Mrs. Sadie Iovinelli, Assistant to the Business Agent.



MRS. IOVINELLI

The purpose of the survey by the state department is to obtain a clear picture of women in industry. Among the topics discussed are types of work women are doing, family responsibilities and the effect of factory employment on them and difficulties involved, earnings, reasons for working and whether they will be desirous of working in the factory after the war.

All of the data which Mrs. Iovinelli has accumulated here has been sent to the state department which is making a study of the results. It is expected that findings of the survey will be announced in eight or ten weeks.

Union Tests Equal Pay Law
See Page 3

Lists Cities Which Back Wage Raise

The following letter was sent to Mayor Mills Ten Eyck by Business Agent Leo Jandreau in connection with the union's effort to seek endorsement of the "Little Steel Formula" fight which is being carried on throughout the country.

Honorable Mayor Mills Ten Eyck, City of Schenectady, N. Y.
The following are names of cities and communities that have taken favorable action on Organized Labor's request to modify the 15% Little Steel Formula.
This does not represent a complete list of all the Municipalities that have taken such action. However, it was all the Union could get a confirmation on in a limited time.

FT. WAYNE, IND.
Mayor H. W. Bools sent a letter to Chairman Davis of the National War Labor Board, urging favorable action to Labor's request to change the Little Steel Formula. The Ft. Wayne Mayor said, "Favorable consideration of this increase will be an incentive for production efficiency and would sustain the high morale of these workers, who have done a grand job, on the production line." "The approximately 50,000 industrial workers of our community have settled labor controversies over the

an hour increase, a fight which this local along with other CIO unions throughout the country is continually pressing.

Mayor Siebel, of Scotia, after studying the resolution, signed his endorsement to it and stated that he highly approved this request of organized labor which had proven its patriotism and done so much in producing the weapons of war.

CALL ON COUNCIL
On Tuesday, February 13, a union delegation consisting of Business Agent Leo Jandreau and the Legislative Committee group composed of William Pierson, Frank Behan, George Quick, and Brothers Giacinto, Turiello, Riechiel and Baciewicz appeared before a caucus of the Schenectady City Council and presented the union's resolution to them for consideration.

It was later announced that Mayor Mills Ten Eyck would send a letter relative to the resolution to WLB Chairman Davis which would express the feelings of the City Council on the matter.

PART OF GENERAL PROGRAM
The enlisting of the support and understanding of civic groups and officials behind the union's "Little Steel" fight is part of the general program of the union to relieve the working people from the burden of now penalizing "Little Steel" policy. Representatives of Local 301, President William Wilkinson, Board Member Raymond Flanigan and Leo Jandreau appeared in Washington, D. C. recently and called on numerous Congressmen and government officials soliciting their support of the union program to bring about a balance between wages and the high cost of living which has increased over 40% since the "Little Steel Formula" was put into effect.

RESOLUTION
The following is the resolution presented by the Legislative Committee and which local officials and groups are endorsing:

WHEREAS, failure of Congress to enact into legislation an overall Economic Stabilization Program has resulted in a 45% increase in the cost of living since January 1, 1941 while wages have been limited under the "Little Steel Formula" to a 15% upward adjustment over the same period, and

WHEREAS, the increase in the cost of food, clothing and shelter has been steadily rising, despite the OPA attempts to prevent such increases, ceiling violators, black markets, quality deterioration, the disappearance of cheaper priced items from the stores have had a disastrous effect on worker's budgets and has resulted in an inability on their part to meet the rising cost of living, and

WHEREAS, the rise in cost of living has defeated any attempt of economic stabilization and contributes to home front disunity, this lowers morale and hampers fulfillment of production needs for victory, and

WHEREAS, in addition to higher prices, the present tax program of Congress has placed an unbroken burden on the low income groups, and

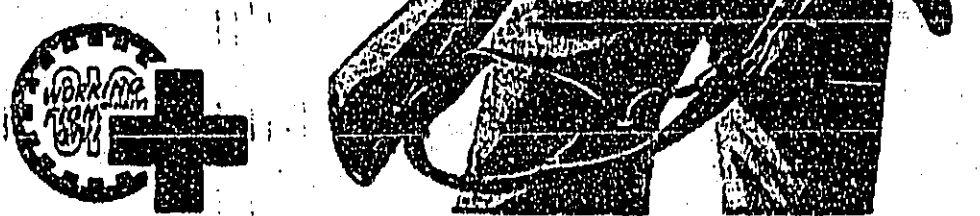
WHEREAS, with the cutbacks in production causing a decrease in the work week in some cases and a reduction in earnings in thousands of cases, the worker finds it increasingly difficult to purchase the

ORIGINAL TORN

Unfinished Business...

It may be a boy from your home town...

he is from your own country he fights and you work and give for our heritage of freedom...



Give To The Red Cross National CIO War Relief Committee

On November 11th, 1942, Red Cross Girl Sally Elting of Boston went out into the foggy streets of London town...

They solemnly witnessed the ceremony of opening American Red Cross Rainbow Corner in Piccadilly...

Two years later, at the anniversary celebration, 74,419 soldiers were checked through that same door during the 24 hours from midnight to midnight...

SERVED A MILLION MEALS Ten million soldiers have passed through the club during the two years of operation...

Under the directorship of Verbon Gay, formerly of New Orleans, the American staff numbers 11 British volunteers...

In the big hall room more than 700 men are accommodated every Tuesday night to witness GI boxing matches...

It's not for nothing that Rainbow Corner lobby is known as Penn Station, Piccadilly. But what cannot be counted are the numerous reunions of old friends...

It's a place to go to for more than just physical refreshment—it's the GI's home away from home.

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Man About Town



Transportation

Local 301's committee to investigate local transportation difficulties, Ernest Bezio and Andrew Peterson, have joined forces with a similar committee representing the Steelworkers Union of Alco and the Bus Driver's Transport Workers' Union...

This being the first time such a service has been made available to the people, it is hoped that they will make use of it as the success of the union committee will depend to a great degree on the support it receives from the bus riding members.

Books

The UOPWA, Local 70, CIO, which is the union organization of the office employees of Local 301 are starting a venture which will aid the new organization financially...

SERVICEMEN Want to Know What Their Union is Doing For Them Please Send This Paper to Your SERVICEMAN

War Labor Board Cases

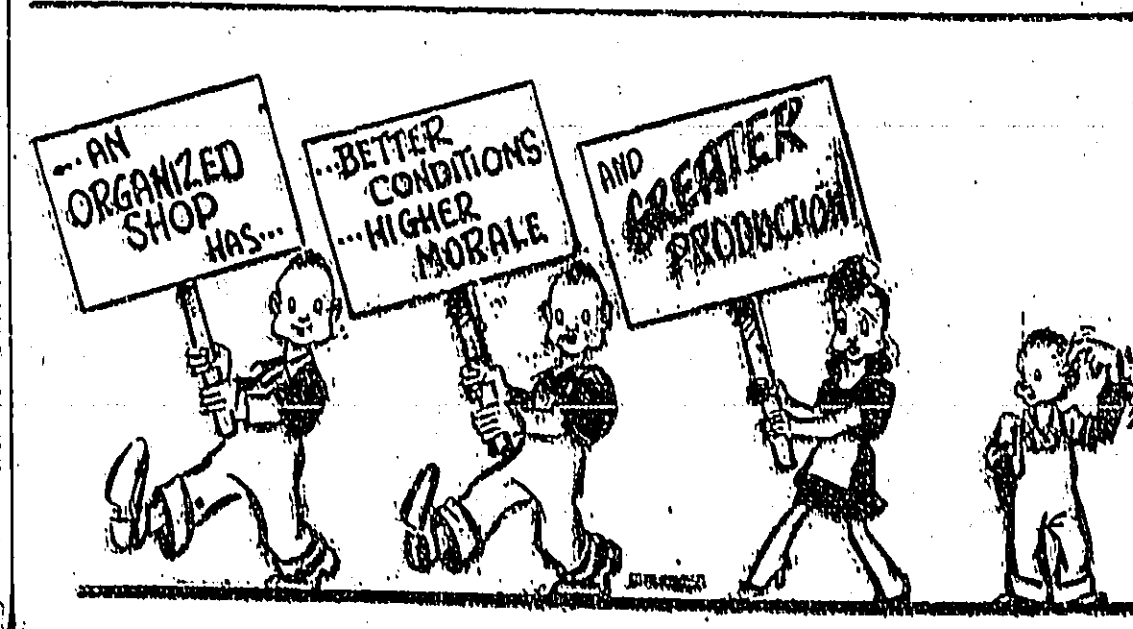
The following are grievances which have been processed through the regular bargaining machinery and have been referred to the WLB for settlement.

- Docket 4552, Ft. Edward plant, Martin Bergant, Committeeman Brammer, filed with union 10-10-44. Docket 3080, bldg. 59, Petrosky, Committeeman Bothencourt, filed with union 10-10-43. Docket 4588, bldg. 28, general complaint, committeeman Woutilla, filed with union 10-24-44. Docket 4768, bldg. 48, Joseph Messant and Leo Malacki, filed with union 12-27-44. Submitted to WLB on Form 10.

Cases Pending Before Management

The following is a list of cases pending before management at present time as a service to the membership, the Electrical Union is in cooperation with the Business Agents' Office will publish in each issue the list of cases pending. When a case no longer appears in this list, it may be assumed that settlement has been made.

Table with columns: Docket No., Bldg., Case, Committeeman, Date. Lists various cases with details like 'J. R. Baugh', 'Lawrence Walker', 'John N. Clement', etc.



Union Starts Test Of Equal Pay Law

Local 301 has initiated its first test of the Equal Pay Law passed by the New York State Legislature in 1944. The grievance, concerning equal pay for equal work regardless of sex is at present in the bargaining machinery and been presented to the manager's office...

mechanical or general shop practice knowledge for a person to recognize the fact that if those jobs could honestly be classified as women's jobs, there would be very few men's jobs in the plant and practically the only measuring stick which would decide what was a man's job, would be the physical strength required to do the job.

COMPANY RESERVATION

It has become increasingly evident that jobs are introduced on the factory floor automatically as women's jobs but with a reservation by the company that "we'll use men to get the job set up and going."

In many of these cases it does not require a great deal of mechanical or general shop practice knowledge for a person to recognize the fact that if those jobs could honestly be classified as women's jobs, there would be very few men's jobs in the plant...

Clerical Drive Makes Progress

Office Organizer Adam Boss states that encouraging results are being reported from many sections of the plant in the current intensified organizational drive but that in some sections, there is little evidence of help or assistance on the part of Local 301 committeemen or other union officers and members in the plants. The following are favorable highlights of the drive to date.

HIGHLIGHTS

Recently Mrs. Genevieve Winkaski, a Local 301 office employee, contacted friends who work in GE offices, outside of the plant and with the assistance of Board member Farrell and Recording Secretary Billie Rogers, signed up a substantial number who are in building 58. It Can Be Done!

CIO Packers Organize Here

The United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO is at the present time conducting an organizational drive at the Albany Packing Company plant in that city. The success of the drive which will end in April would do much to strengthen the CIO and organized labor in this area as well as bring many of the fine benefits we enjoy as CIO members to the people working in that plant.

If any members have friends or relatives working at Albany Packing, tell them about the CIO, its benefits and urge them to join at once. It will help them and by adding their numbers to ours, will strengthen the labor movement in this area.

Local 301 Polio Drive Nets \$1,200

A check for \$1,200 was turned over to William Mayotte, chairman of the Schenectady County March of Dimes Committee for Infantile Paralysis last week by Local 301 President William Wilkinson. The check represented donations of members of Local 301 which were collected by committeemen in the shops. Mr. Wilkinson has expressed gratitude for the fine response of the membership in contributing so substantially to this worthy cause and to the committeemen who cooperated wholeheartedly by circulating the dime containers around their sections of the plant.

Some Increase in Work Noted—Continue Survey

Favorable results have been noted in the amount of work condition throughout the General Electric plant here since the union initiated its campaign to get more work in Schenectady. In departments where many employees have been laid off, it is hoped and expected that the trend will continue.

Schenectady who would be available for a war job in the GE is making good headway but members are urged to continue their survey. For that purpose a survey form is reprinted in this issue to be filled in by anyone who is relative, friend or acquaintance who can accept work in the GE, please have them fill out the form as soon as possible and return it to the Union headquarters either in person or by mail at once.

LETTER TO EDITOR

To the Editor:

Referring to the article in a recent issue of this paper on the proposed educational program, I feel that the members of a union look to their committeemen as their leader and their educator and for that reason I believe that an educational program should include a compulsory school for committeemen.

There are two facts to consider when we speak on this subject. First, because a group of workers elect the one they think best as their committeeman, this does not mean they are fully qualified and secondly, anyone elected as committeeman who refuses to attend such a school would show his lack of interest for the union and the group which elected him.

I hope others will write in on this subject, for this paper I know, likes to hear from members and their opinions. Troy Snipes.

COMPLAINED TO WASHINGTON

Local 301 officers and executive and the Electrical Union News through their efforts, have brought national attention to the lack of work condition here in critical departments among which are transmitter, foundry and radio tube. Business Agent Leo Jandreau, appeared before the House Military Affairs Committee at the request of CIO President Philip Murray and his testimony before that body created widespread interest.

Also a communication was received from the War Manpower Commission in Washington by the editor of the Electrical Union News which stated that "The White House" had instructed the commission to acknowledge an article appearing in this paper first publicly brought to light the work conditions in the critical department.

HELP COMPLETE SURVEY At the present time, many former employees of the company who have been laid off are receiving notice to return to the GE for work. The union survey of help in

Have A Friend or Relative Fill This In and RETURN AT ONCE MANPOWER SURVEY. The war has entered an extremely dangerous and critical stage. Our army is short of much necessary equipment. If called upon, would you be willing to help in an emergency production job? Name, Street, City, Have you worked in a shop before? What experience have you had? What shifts would you be willing to work? 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Can you arrange for transportation? LOCAL 301, UER & MWA 301 Liberty St., Schenectady 5, N. Y.

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