

# Electrical Union News

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

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## Union Making Probe Into Lack of Work at Local GE —Company Moves Jobs Out

### MASTRIANI APPEALS TO WPB HEAD FOR ACTION

William Mastriani, Local 301 Executive Board member who is also a member of the Labor Advisory Committee of the Radio and Radar Division of the War Production Board has written to Harold Sharpe, Director of the Radio and Radar Division WPB, requesting that he investigate the possibility of allocating radar work to the Schenectady GE Plant as a means of relieving a local lack-of-work situation and also as a means of overcoming the shortage of radar from which the armed services is claimed to be suffering.

Mr. Harold Sharpe  
Radio-Radar Division  
Social Security Bldg.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:  
In accordance with the labor advisory committee meeting in Washington as of October 9th, the army and navy and War Production Board officials outlined a military program for radio and radar products and stressed the matter of increasing the output to about 13% for at least the balance of the year.

As a member of the committee and particularly in view of the fact that the General Electric has been producing a large quantity of these materials, I immediately set forth to encourage War Production Councils in our radio division to encourage production. However, we find ourselves in a peculiar predicament inasmuch as there have been 6,000 employees laid off or transferred from our radio department since the first of January of this year. The trend is towards less employment and ac-

The Eager Beaver



MASTRIANI

According to the company it is due to the cancellation of orders.

At the present time we have facilities and machinery that lay idle due to the lack of work in our department as well as ample manpower to handle this equipment and produce jobs if we had them.

At the meeting I was informed that the G. E. Company was one of the concerns that could go immediately into production on a day's notice and was further informed that a large order had been released to the Schenectady Works. As of today, we have not seen the order that was discussed and the employment situation is very serious due to lack of work.

Will you kindly investigate as to why the Schenectady plant of the General Electric Company is not given more work in order to keep all facilities and manpower occupied.

Very truly yours,  
William Mastriani.

### Send In News

Members of the union are not only invited but urged to send in to the editor of the Electrical Union news, news items which they think would be of interest for the thousands of readers of this paper.

It is not necessary to write the story, just jot down the facts as they are, making sure they are correct and send them in to union headquarters. If it is news which the editorial committee can use, it will surely do it. With a little help from the people in the shop we can make our paper the best one in the community.

The Editorial Committee

Showing deep concern and dismay over the present lack of work condition in certain sections of the Local General Electric plant when the armed forces, government and other agencies are stressing the need of increased production and the lack of manpower to produce the very items this "lack of work" normally produces, the officers and executive board has instituted a broad survey of facilities and manpower conditions at the local plant.

**GE Claims Manpower Shortage**  
The War Production Board recently revealed a master list of war plants under contract with the UE in which the management contends manpower shortage is the reason for cuts in production. Among those listed was the General Electric Schenectady plant and the items effected were named as radar, radio tubes, aircraft engines and sub contracts for tanks and tank destroyers.

The actual conditions are well known to the union and even to many of the rank and file members who work in those departments. The radio transmitter department which produces radar had a peak employment of approximately 9,000. The first of this year saw only approximately 1,500 in that department which means that about 7,500 people have been laid off or transferred from that department during the year despite the shortage of the equipment they produced.

The reasons behind this cut-back is well known. The company intends to consolidate its radio divisions in Syracuse after the war and contrary to GE President Wilson's statements that GE would postpone post-war reconversion until the war is safely won and there is no longer a material shortage, the practice continues. The irony of this situation is found in a reported house-to-house canvass made in Syracuse in an effort to find radio workers while in Schenectady where the work was moved away from, machines are standing idle, benches are used for storage

space and experienced, skilled help is either out of work completely much of the time or "waiting on the job" by doing some unskilled work at a greatly reduced rate rather than go home. Foundry Problem Similar A similar condition is found in the steel foundry. According to government agencies, foundry products are extremely crucial. The Army has announced it would have to release thousands for foundry work and in Elmira, several hundred Jamaicans have been imported to carry on production because of the reported lack of help in that city. Formerly the Schenectady and Elmira shops exchanged work. Meanwhile, in Schenectady the steel foundry is working at about 50% capacity and many molders have been told they should look for work elsewhere because of the lack of work here. At the same time GE buys castings which can and should be made in Schenectady from a foundry in Buffalo, a city in which there is a critical labor shortage.

**Shortage of Tubes**  
Another item which GE says is short because of lack of manpower in Schenectady is radio tubes. However, the true facts are that hundreds have been sent to building one from this "critical" work. The company is carrying on its plan of de-centralizing by moving part of the work and equipment to Utica, Northampton and Poughkeepsie, cities where there is no trained personnel. Also the tube section has been moved out of building 37 to make room for a lab. This is also in spite of the company's "pub-

licity" claims that they are maintaining all-out production and any shortage is the fault of "manpower."

**"Situation Critical"**

The situation caused by the company's policies is equally critical from a War Effort and Local standpoint. Press releases from Washington daily tell of the handicaps our armed forces are facing because of the lack of equipment and it has been threatened that "because the shortage is due to lack of manpower," GI's would be put in the war plants to work on their regular rate, the GI would be doing the same work for the company for \$50 a month. This of course would be advantageous to the companies now producing on the contract basis but a constant threat to the earnings of the war worker.

It is expected and hoped that many other groups in the city will join with the union in its effort to bring work to Schenectady and to maintain the local employment level now and after the war. At the present time slightly over 20,000 production workers are employed in the local plant. Approximately 15,000 on the day shift, 4,000 on the second shift and 700 on the third shift.

**Union to Make Appeal**

After its broad survey of facilities and manpower, the union is arranging to contact War Manpower Commission and War Production Board top officials and make an appeal based on facts, for relief of the local lack of work condition.

Have A Friend or Relative Fill This In and

RETURN AT ONCE

SURVEY MADE AS OF JANUARY 5, 1945

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.

## ISSUES MISSING

## ORIGINAL TORN



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers of America, Local 301 CIO, Schenectady, N. Y.

AUSTIN J. CASE, Editor; RAYMOND D. FLANIGAN, Co-editor; Editorial Committee: Frank Emspak, Sidney Friedlander, Chet Cook, Jayne Starka, Tony Snipes, Blanchard Mowers.

JONES GROCERY advertisement with illustrations of a woman and a child.

JONES GROCERY SPECIALARY advertisement with illustrations of a woman and a child.

BEST DISPLAYED GROCERY advertisement with illustrations of a woman and a child.

International U. E.

Hailing the success of the 'policies of victory' set by the U. E. CIO in the first three years of the war, U. E.'s newly enlarged General Executive Board called on the U. E.-CIO membership to 'gather its forces to meet the new problems that approaching victory brings.'

The GEB met in New York on the third anniversary of the Harbor, estimating the unions work in the past three months and setting sights for the coming period.

Major actions of the executive board included: 1-Continuation of the union drive, in cooperation with the Steelworkers and Auto Workers, for upward revision of the Little Steel Formula.

2-Strengthening and consolidating the union to improve U. E. contracts and work for the fulfillment of the CIO program on reconversion and full employment.

3-Setting up permanent Editorial Action Committee in U. E. to carry forward the CIO program of participation in state and local elections and to build the groundwork for further victories in the elections of 1948.

4-Urging every local to arrange for visits to their Congressmen while they are at home during the holidays to discuss impending legislation and labor's demand for revision of the Little Steel formula.

5-Stressing the need for setting up Veterans' Welfare Com-

mittees in each local to give advice and assistance to returning veterans in their plants.

Man About Town



For the second time within a few months, Mrs. Bertha Greene, former committeewoman at Campbell Avenue plant, received a telegram from the War Department informing her of the wounding of a son in action.

The second son to be wounded in combat is Sgt. Thomas E. Green who on his way overseas met his older brother Lieut. Wm. Green on his way back to a hospital in this country after being seriously wounded by shrapnel from one of the famous German 88s in France.

At the present time Sgt. Thomas is recuperating in an overseas hospital and Lieut. William is in the England General Hospital at Atlantic City.

Mrs. Green, who goes about her job quietly but energetically working for the day her sons may return home, has another son in the service, Pfc. John W. Green, who is serving with the Army Air Corp.

A THOUGHT

By TROY SNIPES. At times we sit grumpy and grumbling. When little things go wrong. Pretending that they mean so much.

When they could do no harm. If we could stop and think of those around. And the hardships they endure. And the hardships they endure. And the hardships they endure.

Do You Know? BUY WAR BONDS advertisement with a graphic of a bond.

Cases Pending Before Management

The following is a list of cases pending before management of the Electrical Union of America, Local 301, CIO, Schenectady, N. Y.

Table listing various cases with names, addresses, and dates. Includes names like Mary Moore, H. S. Zavilla, J. Mastriano, etc.

Local Townsend Leader Describes Security Plan

The Electrical Union News presents the following article prepared by Mr. Hawley B. Van Vechten of the Schenectady Townsend Club. The publication of this article does not constitute endorsement of this plan by Local 301 and is offered only as a service to the membership by acquainting them with another organization which has their welfare as its primary concern.

The writer wishes to thank the members of age, widows with children under 18, and blind and otherwise incapacitated people of all ages.

A three per cent tax would be levied on all gross incomes, both corporate and personal, both in 1948 and 1949.

A Replacement Tax. It is estimated that three million dollars of the nation's business current to help 'keep the wheels of industry turning' about two billion dollars per year.

Will Petition N.L.R.B. For Expediter Election. The union has decided to petition the National Labor Relations Board for an election to include expeditors in the Local 301 bargaining unit.

Production workers in the various shops are urged to pass this information on to all expeditors with whom they come in contact and to urge them to sign a union application at once.

Must Sign Again. All expeditors who are now in the check-off system have had to sign a special card to be included. It will now be necessary for expeditors in the plant to sign new application cards and turn them in to a union representative or to the union headquarters.

U. E. Local 301 General Membership Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 P.M. BE SURE TO ATTEND!

INFLATION COSTLY SAYS GEO. MITCHELL

OPA Price Panel Head Leads Local 301's Assistance In Keeping Living Costs Down. The Anti-Inflation week program which was sponsored by the Schenectady Price Panel and in which Local 301 took a leading part has done much to make the people of the city 'price conscious.'

Observing ceiling prices is the best defense against inflation. Jandrea's Enforcement. I would like to quote from an endorsement that the Price Panel has received from one of our outstanding citizens, Mr. Leo Jandrea, Business Agent of Local 301.

The complete elimination of the black market, which has made proper rationing difficult, requires the cooperation of every citizen. Unfair, black market rationing causes unequal distribution of the limited supplies necessary for production workers, thus reducing their efficiency and impeding war production.

Let me repeat that you cannot win against inflation. Dollar values drop, purchasing power falls off, and this is always followed by a slowing up of production and hence unemployment. When these conditions are present, you have nothing more or less than a depression. I don't believe any intelligent person wants to experience again the depression of the thirties.

Let's understand right now that nobody can win against inflation. Inflation and price controls know no politics. The latter is an anti-OPA program. Because of a conviction that only by the rigid enforcement of price controls can inflation be kept from our doors, the Price Panel of the Schenectady War Price and Rationing Board is sponsoring an Anti-Inflation Week, Jan. 8-14.

But if you familiarize yourself with the dangers of inflation and the effect that it would have on our national economy and morale, only one who already sworn to the allegiance of Germany could continue to practice black market activities. Those of us who remember the last world war know the terrific rise in the cost of the living following the signing of the Armistice in November, 1918.

Today, cooperatives such as the Schenectady Consumer's Cooperative in which Local 301 owns a share of stock, are guided by these principles. The local co-op, formed in 1936, has made steady progress and now has one of the most modern retail food outlets in the city and is located on Eastern Avenue, near McChesney.