

Why Workers Want More Dough

THINGS ARE FINE FOR SOME PEOPLE . . .

GE did even better than 643%. Its profits are up 721% since 1939.

profits are up

643%

Since 1939

It's No Wonder That Workers From Coast-to-Coast Are Demanding—

... And Some People Want to Make Things Even Finer . . .

Within a week after it was announced that prices have hit an all-time high, Mike DiSalle, U. S. Price Director, said he was planning to "decontrol" some prices so the bosses could make more profits.

... Some More Decontrol for Employers

While some prices were to be decontrolled, in New York City, the bosses' wage

DiSalle to Name Board for Study Of Decontrols

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (AP) — Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle told congress today he is preparing to appoint a committee to explore the possibility of decontrolling prices in some fields.

WHILE THIS MAN ADMITTED . . .

"I can assure you . . . from the depths of my heart, that if it were not for wage controls now . . . wages would go up higher than they are . . ."

ERIC JOHNSTON, former Administrator of Price Stabilization

THE MAN WHO RUNS THE BOSSES' ONE-WAY GRAVY TRAIN WARNED

This is what Charles E. Wilson, former GE president, and now "assistant" president as Defense Mobilizer, said last month in a speech at the National Press Club in Washington, D. C.:

" . . . we must and will maintain wage control . . . even at the risk of strikes in key industries."

Wage Rollbacks for 7,000 Loom; U. S. Attacks 267 Concerns' Rises

The first crackdown on violators of wage and salary controls in the metropolitan area may result in pay rollbacks for 7,000 workers in 267 New York and New Jersey companies.

freeze board announced it was planning to "decontrol" some wages that have gone beyond the "freeze" formula.

End the Wage Freeze!

Union Flays Callous N. Y. Unemployment Practices

The Union has moved on two fronts to end what it terms policies of the New York State Unemployment Division to "make pensioners a plaything of arbitrary interviewers" and defeat the law's aim "to bridge the gap between loss of job and re-employment" by prolonged delays before claimants receive their checks.

Local 301 Attorney Leon Novak and Fred Sheehan, '301' assistant business agent, lodged the following complaints with J. V. Heckler, Schenectady Division manager:

The division proceeds on the theory that no pensioner wants to work. Heckler admitted this. He also said that 400 pensioner cases are on special file to be given "special" treatment to prove they don't qualify for benefits.

Questions are framed in a manner designed to deliberately trap pensioners out of benefits. The division does not tell these people of their legal rights on the theory it might "tip them off."

Pensioners are disqualified if they won't accept pay rates far below what they earned before—even though no specific job is offered. The division bases its prevailing area rate on non-union, speeded-up sweatshops and excludes the higher GE and Alco rates.

The union got one concession from Heckler at this first meeting. Individual cases of disqualification

brought by the Union will be reconsidered.

With respect to the long delays before claimants receive a check, Sheehan has written to N. Y. Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi, citing many such complaints.

Four '273' Welders Win Upgrading

Four combination welders, two on second shift and two on third, have been upgraded in Bldg. 273, as a result of action by the Union.

Combination welders had been working on special welding jobs and were specially rated on the job, which was used on a job-to-job basis. Sometimes assignments would last as long as five weeks, depending on the length of the job.

In order to protect the rates of these temporary specially rated jobs, William Templeton, assistant business agent, argued for the Union that these welders be upgraded to the special welders rate, even though no immediate change in rate was involved.

GE also conceded it has been lax in its upgrading of workers.

Where There's A Will

GE can come out from behind that government board it's hiding behind to cover up its role in stalling the 3.58 percent wage increase for its production and maintenance workers.

That GE can act when it wants to was demonstrated in a recent issue of the GE Works News, in the Grapevine, edited by none other than Lewis J. Male, Works manager.

Writing about a case in which overtime for some "exempt" employees was denied by the salary unit of the wage freeze board, the Grapevine said:

"The Company feels this ruling discriminates against a large group of exempt employees and has requested the Board to reconsider our appeal."

What GE can do for its "exempt" employees it can do for its unionized production and maintenance employees. It's time the union employees told them so in a louder and louder voice.

Push TV Petitions

Over 400 workers, in Bldgs. 15, 17, 19, Punch Press, Tool & Die, have signed petitions calling upon the Federal Communications Commission to grant another TV channel in the Schenectady area. How many have signed up in your building and section?

Political Action Aids UE In Tonawanda

When members of UE Local 304 rolled up their sleeves and elected their local president as a member of the North Tonawanda Common Council, it was an achievement that is now paying dividends.

Alderman Joseph Kukucka, '304' president, has gotten the Council of this New York town to go on record urging that the Wage Stabilization hurry up and approve improvements won by UE in six local plants.

He also got the Council on record to support State Sen. William Bianchi's bill to repeal the Hughes-Brees amendments to the state unemployment insurance law.

That's political action paying off.

UE Local 306 members in the same town canvassed the merchants, doctors and lawyers, with the result that 100 sent messages to the wage freeze board urging prompt approval of UE's cases.

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301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

Take It From Here . . .

La Porte, Ind.—When UE members of Locals 119, 173 and 912 teamed up with unorganized workers at the American Rubber Products Corp. the result was one of the quickest organizing drives on record. In six days, between Jan. 15 to 21, 135 out of 140 workers joined UE, signed and ratified an agreement with the company.

Miami Beach, Fla.—The AFL executive council at its quarterly meeting accused employers of trying to put pressure on the Wage Stabilization Board to prevent it issuing recommendations favorable to workers.

Toronto, Canada—UE Local 514 members have won a 10 cent hourly increase at the L. C. Smith Typewriter Co.

Kansas City, Mo.—Representatives of 275,000 AFL, CIO and independent oil workers at a joint meeting voted to take a strike poll to back up their joint wage drive to settle for not less than 25 cents an hour increases.

Bristol, Penna.—IUE-CIO raiders at the Barker and Williamson plant were given an 102 to 82 beating by members of UE Local 134.

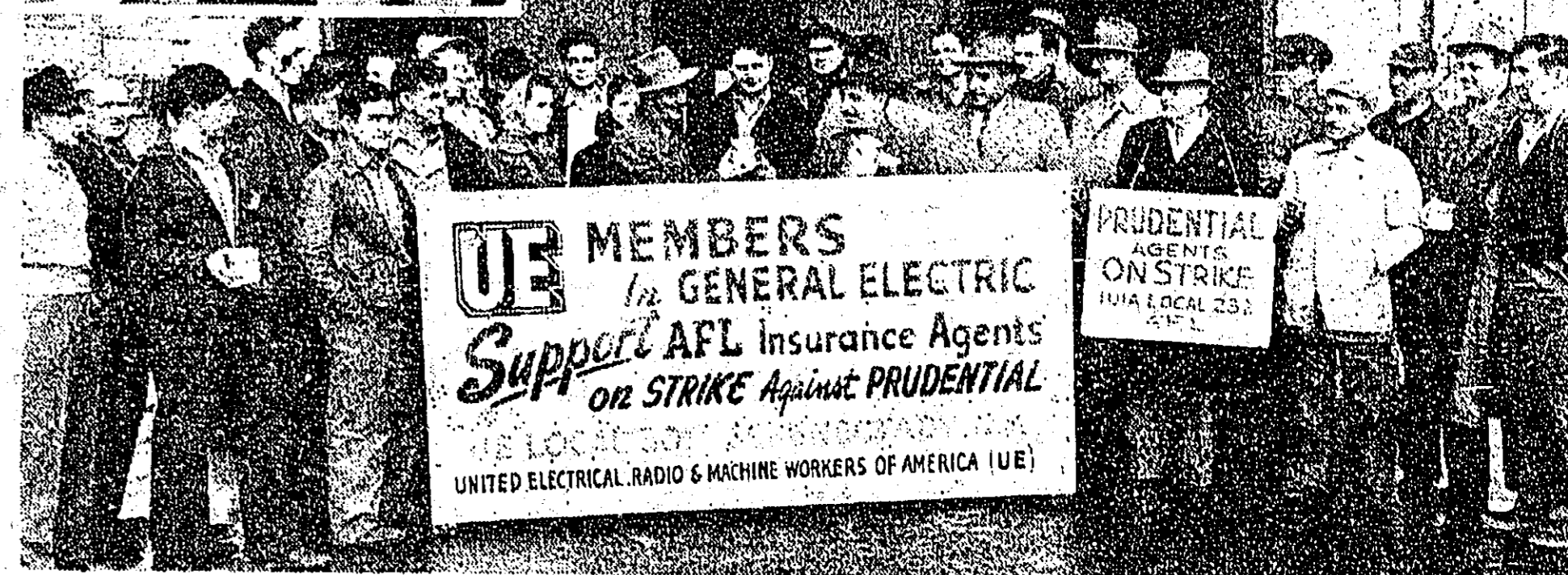
Washington, D. C.—Next stop for anti-union hearings by the House un-American Committee was announced for Detroit, Feb. 25, at the largest local union in the world, United Auto Workers, CIO, Ford Local 600.

Fort Wayne, Ind.—With 98 percent of UE Local 915 members on record to go on strike to win their demands, the Horton Mfr. Co. agreed at strike deadline time to a seven cent an hour increase, with another wage reopening in six months.

Trenton, N. J.—The 6,500 AFL employees of the Public Service Transport Co. have won a 17 cent hourly increase and reduction of their work week from 44 to 40 hours. With a strike set for Feb. 1, the bus lines were seized by the state. Their victory resulted from an arbitration.

Unity Was The Keynote

An old fashioned demonstration of the kind of labor unity that pays off for all workers—unity in fighting the corporations—was given by UE Local 301 members on Monday, February 11, when stewards conducted a luncheon-hour collection to help AFL Prudential insurance agents, who are now in the eleventh week of the largest white collar strike in the country's history. Below is seen '301' President James Cognetta handing some of the collection canisters to Joseph Tucci, president of Local 232, International Union of Insurance Agents, while workers who conducted collection at GE Subway Gate look on. On left, a UE member gets the lowdown on the strike from an AFL insurance agent.



Heat on GE by UE Members Smokes Out Company Stall

The shoe was beginning to pinch on GE last week as UE members throughout the chain poured the pressure on the company to tell its industry members on the wage freeze board to stop the stalling and approve their 3.58 percent increase in full. Some of the rapid-fire developments were:

• UE Local 301's proposal that top GE officials go with National UE officers to the WSB and insist on prompt action—or face the threat of demonstrations throughout the chain.

• Don Strauss, of WSB's review and appeals committee, called GE and suggested payment of the 1.08 increase at once.

• Feeling the heat, GE changed its tune on the 1.08 percent cost-of-living part of the 3.58 package from refusal to pay it, on account of the bookkeeping involved, to a readiness to pay it right away. This was generally interpreted as an attempt to "throw a bone" at its workers while its industry WSB members continue to stall on the other 2.50 percent.

• IUE-CIO's "Available" Carey rushed in to say he was "available"

One Phone Call

A crack by one worker at a building meeting last week cut through all the flim-flam about GE and its industry members on the WSB. "Who they kidding?" the UE member quipped, as his building membership applauded its approval. "All Charley Wilson has to do is pick up a phone and call that wage freeze board to OK the GE increase and it would be approved before he hung up the phone."

to help out GE on its ruse by agreeing to it at once without consulting anyone in his union.

• Though GE said it couldn't attend a meeting with UE officers to see the WSB, continued pressure from its workers found GE Vice

President L. R. Boulware a few days later talking to the WSB.

Meanwhile, new evidence came to light to bear out UE's charge that GE's industry members on the WSB intend to stall the 2.50 "productivity" increase, when it was revealed that industry members on Jan. 26, 1952 had stated they "stand against any new wage policy providing for . . . productivity increases."

While these developments were going on, UE '301' building meetings throughout the Works were reported at presstime to be voting overwhelmingly against acceptance of the 1.08 and demanding payment of the full 3.58. Members were making it clear they will be no party to a deal that relieves GE or its WSB industry members, of its responsibility for paying the full 3.58 at once.

