

Electrical Union News

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

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SHENECTADY, NEW YORK

February 8, 1946

Statement On Council's Action By Leo Jandreau

"The Council's action is an evasion of its responsibility to the citizens. The fight of the strikers to restore and maintain purchasing power of the workers out of the tremendous profits of GE and other huge trusts, is a fight on behalf of the whole people—the grocer, butcher, baker, farmer, doctor, dentist, whose bills are paid out of the wages of the workers. It is a fight against another boom and bust crash.

"To claim impartiality in such a fight between a single giant corporation on the one hand and 16,000 workers on the other, means taking sides with the corporation against the people.

"What the Council's so-called impartiality means becomes most evident when you consider that in the name of impartiality it refuses even to take an interest in relief for needy families or in price control which affects every family in the city.

"We believe the strikers speak in fact for the overwhelming majority of the people of Schenectady. We still think the Council should speak out forcefully in their behalf, and do its share to help compel the Company to deal fairly with its employees. In any event we are confident that continued support by the people will force General Electric to settle."

City Council Should Back the People—Lines Remain Solid As Judge Considers Union Case

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

A campaign for petitions by the people of Schenectady asking the City Council to support the strikers' \$2-a-day demand was launched today.

Accompanied by more than a hundred strikers, the GE Strike Committee descended in a body upon the City Hall Thursday night and called upon the City Council to take a stand in support of the \$2-a-day demand and take steps to help compel GE to settle the strike on those terms.

The visit to the City Hall came one day after the union's victory in the first round of the injunction battle started in Supreme Court. (The story of the injunction hearing, postponed at least to February 18 on argument of the union attorney's, appears elsewhere in this paper.)

Speaking for the strike committee, Business Agent Leo Jandreau asked that the City Council back the strikers in the interest of the whole community, to maintain purchasing power to help the storekeepers, professional men and women, office workers and farmers. He asked that the council oppose the Case bill and all anti-union legislation, demand repeal of the carry-back provisions of the tax law and maintenance of price control. He asked that policemen

assigned to picketline duty not carry nightsticks, and that the county be asked to appropriate money for the relief of strikers' families. (The text of Jandreau's statement to the Council appears on Page 4 in this issue.)

The council members made no comment on the union requests, but Mayor Mills Ten Eyck promised an early answer. The council is expected to act at their regular meeting Monday night.

Led by Vice-President Bill Kelly, the strike-committee members at the hearing included Irene Patterson, John Boyle, C. Billie Rogers, Paul Candens, John Dudson, Frank Em-snak, Edward Wallingford, Foster Campbell, Michael Tedisco, Anthony Esposito, William Mastriani, Charles Ferris, Joseph Garing, Eugene Lem-cine, John Myers, Henry Busse, John Polak, and George Farrell. President Andrew Peterson and Treasurer Marshall White are on union assignment, visiting other GE strike fronts.

Meanwhile all strike lines continued solid, here and from coast to coast at the 76 GE, Westinghouse, and GM Electrical Division in the UE strike, and likewise in the brother CIO strikes in Steel and General Motors.

Negotiations were at an apparent standstill. The two government mediators, Arthur Meyer and William H. Davis, both of New York City, met again with the presidents of GE and Westinghouse companies, but no progress was reported.

In Washington, there was the usual crop of newspaper stories that

the Truman administration was working up a "wage-price formula" that would lead to settlement of the steel and other major strikes. UE leaders here, however, took the attitude that they would believe it when they saw it, and that the fight was still on the picketline, not in Washington. They pointed out that a settlement involving price increases to the companies would mean rising cost of living which would threaten to take away the wage gains in a short time. They stressed that the fight for continued price control must be kept up.

A probably more important Washington meeting was that of top officers of the big CIO unions, called by CIO President Philip Murray Thursday. President Albert J. Fitzgerald and James J. Matles, director of organization, represented the UE. There has been no word yet from the meeting.

ALBANY AFL ENDORSES STRIKE

The Albany Central Federation of Labor, AFL, Thursday night unanimously voted full support to UE Local 301 in its strike against the General Electric Company.

The body had previously heard a talk by Roy Lach, secretary-treasurer of the CIO Capital District Council who reported that the AFL Plumbers and Steamfitters union in Schenectady is cooperating in every way possible in pushing the strike to a successful conclusion.

UE Wins Opening Round Of Injunction Struggle

Workers of GE have won the first round of the fight started by their employers in State Supreme Court in an effort to break their strike for a \$2-a-day raise.

Judge John Alexander on Wednesday postponed the hearing of the company's application for an anti-picketing injunction until February 18, in order to determine first whether or not the company had resorted to improper short cuts of legal procedure in its attempt to bring the strikers into court.

Hundreds of strikers waiting on the Court House steps cheered long and loudly when Jandreau came out and announced the result.

"We won the first round," was the word that swept the gathering. An

informal parade started to the union hall at Liberty Street and Erie Boulevard to hear a brief report on the case. They cheered and sang, "Solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong."

Judge Alexander announced that on February 18 he would rule on the union claim that the action was brought improperly. If he should rule against the union, he said he would start the hearing on that day, and if it should last to the end of that week, he would adjourn the case to February 25.

About 160 strikers filled the courtroom when Wednesday's hearing started. The overflow, consisting of hundreds more, stood patiently out-

(Continued on Page 4)

Talent Night Sunday Promises Lots of Fun

A Talent Night at which everybody, whether they play a string bass under their chin like a violin, dance a jig, sing like Crosby, or Hope, pull card tricks, stand on their head and drink a glass of water, or just make people laugh, will be invited to show their stuff next on the recreation program. It is all part of the big entertainment being planned for Sunday night at Redman's Hall, corner of Liberty and Ferry Sts., just one block from Union headquarters. The time set for the fun to start is 8 p.m. and will run through to midnight.

In addition to the Sunday event, the CIO Joint Recreation Committee has scheduled dances for February 14, 25 and 28th, all to be held in Redman's Hall which has been obtained by the committee for social and recreation functions during the strike.

In the way of fine support of the

CALLING ALL PICKET CAPTAINS, COMMITTEEMEN

Put it down in your little black book, and be there—
Weekly strike meeting of captains and committeemen

EVERY TUESDAY,
7:30 P.M.
UE-CIO HALL
Liberty and Ferry Streets

strikers, Local 65, American Federation of Musicians, AFL and local musicians who belong to the musicians' union are donating their services for the various events. Among the aggregations contributing their music are Phil Lawrence and his band who will play at the Sunday Talent night. Other bands which have already donated their services are Armand Rieco and his band, Freddie Gray's orchestra and Gordie Randall and his WGY orchestra. The members who are active on the sponsoring Joint Recreation Committee represent Local 301, UE and Locals 2054 and 3180, Alico. Their membership includes:

Foster Campbell, Michael Tedisco, Anthony Esposito, Harold Claus, Belle Baxter, Walter Mohyde, Fay Marvin, John Dudson, Theodore Morell, Joseph Scardino, John Sacocio, Lucy Swatling, Mary Clifford, Marguerite Gauvreau, Genevieve Winarski.

These programs are entirely free to CIO strikers and their families and are arranged solely for their enjoyment and recreation. The committee urges large turnouts for them which will insure their success.

LISTEN!
WSNY — 7:15 P. M.
Monday thru Friday

ORIGINAL TORN

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers of America, CIO
Schenectady G E Local 301

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GE's Resort To Courts Here An Organized Plan

GE's court battle for an injunction, which began Wednesday, is merely part of a campaign that is being waged by big business throughout the country, particularly by GE, General Motors and Westinghouse.

The plan is to provoke disorder and violence in UE picket lines in order to provide a pretext for crippling injunctions. As UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald has pointed out, "In Bloomfield, N. J., so eager was the GE Company to provide the necessary excuse for a court injunction, that . . . a company supervisor was arrested by the local police for attacking a union picket."

"This entire campaign," Mr. Fitzgerald continues, "has been undertaken in an attempt by companies such as GE and Westinghouse to provide a pretext for police and court action as a means to break the strike now in its fourth week." In a letter addressed to U. S. Senator James E. Murray of Montana, he declares: "Our union, 200,000 of whose members are on strike for a living wage against General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors (electrical division), has proof that industry has launched a campaign to incite violence and bloodshed."

He demands that the Senate Education and Labor Committee, of which Murray is chairman, start an immediate investigation of this vicious plot.

It is plainly high time that such an inquiry be undertaken. Already injunctions are sought, have actually been granted or are pending in the Cleveland, GE and Westinghouse plants, Pittsburgh (Westinghouse), Jersey City (Westinghouse), Bloomfield, N. J. (Westinghouse and GE), Newark, N. J. (Westinghouse), Chicago (Westinghouse), Pittsfield, Mass. (GE), Bridgeport, Conn. (GE), Philadelphia (GE), Dayton, Ohio, and Rochester (GM).

And last but not least, here in Schenectady, the pattern of company action has followed exactly that described by Mr. Fitzgerald.

Having failed by other means to breach the union's solid front, man-

agement is resorting to tactics which constitute not merely a stab in the back of organized labor but a blow to the best interests of democracy and the national welfare.

Fortunately, it is a pattern which must be obvious to the people of the country. It is such glaring treachery that no sensible person can fail to grasp its nature and import.

These tactics cannot succeed against a body of employes determined to maintain order in the peace-loving communities where they live and strive to earn a decent livelihood, an equally determined to see through this crucial struggle with management to a victorious conclusion.

Already it is becoming apparent that the missile so ruthlessly shaped and treacherously aimed at union working people has begun to prove a boomerang. But the full light of publicity is needed to bring home to the general public the meanness and underhandedness of the scheme.

This light can best be shed by means of a Senate probe such as Mr. Fitzgerald has called for. To counteract the plot, every member of Local 301, every decent-minded citizen who reads this paper, should write forthwith to Senator James E. Murray, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C., and demand that his committee act at once to get the facts in this plot, and recommend appropriate action to squelch it once and for all.

Twos A Hot Time At Injunction Hearing

The hundreds of loyal Local 301 members on hand at the County Court House to hear the legal proceedings on the injunction case had no easy time of it.

Lack of preparations for handling the crowd resulted in the ones who got there early being pushed to the back of the line in the corridors. The heat in the low-ceilinged hall was terrific, especially for those heavily clad who came from the picket lines.

LOCAL 301 IS
ON THE AIR



Every Evening — Mon. thru Fri., 7-15
Listen To Your Daily Union Report

'Coasting' Into Tax Refunds Is Fine Sport

Why the big electrical companies have been in no rush to return to the production of peacetime goods, the shortage of which G-E now claims to deplore, blaming it on the strike, is a timely question.

Light was shed on it in a timely manner in an Associated Press dispatch January 15 from Syracuse, reporting an address of Peter G. Evans, lecturer on taxation on the faculty of Columbia University, to the New York State Society of Accountants.

The tax expert cautioned industrial corporations against "coasting" in 1946 in order to collect refunds under the federal revenue act of 1943. He referred to that part of the revenue act permitting corporations to retain for 1946 the benefit of excess profits taxes of the past two years to meet reconversion losses.

How the refund would work, with General Electric as a specific example, was shown in a brief which the UE prepared for the War Labor Board for hearings last Fall.

General Electric, according to the brief, had in the calculations of the U. S. Treasury, a base peacetime profit of \$60,000,000. Should the company's postwar profits fall to \$25,000,000, it would be entitled to a refund of \$14,000,000. Should the company break even, without profit, it would get \$24,000,000. Should it suffer a loss of \$10,000,000, its refund would be sufficient to guarantee it a \$22,000,000 net profit for the year.

The assurance of profits under the "carry-back, carry-forward" rebate is now a weapon in the hands of the companies against labor. They can take their time on the production of

peacetime goods if lowering of wages, weakening of unions, and raising of prices because of scarcity of goods is the result. A higher rate of profit in the later stages of reconversion might well be more attractive to them than more employment now and greater purchasing power for lower priced goods.

"These figures become even more significant if we consider what it would mean to the individual General Electric worker if he had made comparable profits during the war," the UE brief said:

"If the average worker employed had the same legislative protection as the corporations, and if his savings were in the same proportion to his earnings as GE and Westinghouse resources are to their profits, he would have savings of \$11,000, he would be getting a 10 percent tax refund amounting to \$1,700; he would be entitled to a carry-back provision of \$2,000. All together, this typical worker would be protected by an amount of \$14,700."

Clergy Backs UE

Taking a stand on the strike of UE members in Bridgeport, Conn., where both GE and Westinghouse are involved, the Bridgeport Pastors' Association has issued a statement declaring:

"We affirm . . . that the present labor and management strife will be settled best by genuine collective bargaining to the end that all wage earners and management and owners, shall have their just share in the fruits of industry . . ."

Rev. Joseph Swain, chairman of the Social Action Committee of the Association, had this to say of GE wages in an address to GE strikers: "I DO NOT SEE HOW ANY PERSON CAN LIVE ON SUCH WAGES."

Consult Union First Welfare Head Urges

Those union members who find it necessary, because of the present strike situation, to seek financial or other types of aid should go first to the union welfare office in room 310, 381 State Street. In this way matters will be more rapidly and easily handled. John Polak, the capable and hard-working chairman of the welfare committee, and his assistants will be glad to advise you in any personal difficulties.

Chairman Polak urges that members anticipate their needs by at least a week as time is a factor in working out individual problems.

Thank God for CIO, Assemblyman Says

"Although I am an AFL member, I thank God for the CIO. You of the CIO are carrying on the great fight for true industrial democracy — democracy for the people of all races and all creeds." This declaration by Assemblyman Hulan Jack, 14th Assembly District, before the meeting of committeemen and picket captains Tuesday not only was a generous and high-minded gesture but one which shows the growing trend toward understanding and unity in the ranks of labor throughout the nation. Local 301 appreciates it deeply in the midst of this great and crucial struggle.

Zero Misses Train; Soup Was So Good

Zero Mostel, famous comedian, and star comic at the strike rally Sunday, stayed in Schenectady and joined the picket lines around the GE plant in spite of the zero weather. Hungry and tired, he came back to union headquarters for a quick bite because he had to catch a train within a few minutes. Well, what happened after that is hard to believe — Zero bent his elbow through about a dozen bowls of hot, steaming soup — his train came and went but Zero didn't even bat an eye, he just couldn't part from his soup.

All the blame for Zero's missing his train should be placed on Andrew Starr and George Joos whose outstanding culinary achievements have become the talk of union headquarters. The boys also excelled in the art of preparing meat loaves and baked beans. Their coffee, incidentally, is tops. Ask members who've tasted it — ask Zero Mostel!

Rally Brings New Understanding and Support For Labor's Fight With GE & Alco

Where does the public of Schenectady stand on the issues in the strikes of the General Electric and American Locomotive workers? Six thousand citizens answered Sunday at the Strike Support Rally when they filled the State Armory and in one of the most moving demonstrations since the strike began, repeated in union the pledge to back up the striking workers' demands until victory is won.

Leather Workers Send Food Items

Local 202, Leather Workers, of Gloversville, sent a very generous supply of staple food items for our kitchens last week.

The Waldorf Bakery called in a driver recently to delivery bread to our kitchen during normally closed hours.

For such acts of cooperation the Local 301 is deeply appreciative. It all helps — helps very much, folks.

VOLUNTEER FOR ODD JOBS AT UNION HALL

Byrne Joins Supporters Of UE Strike Against GE Kearney's Name Absent

Congressman Bernard W. Kearney, the representative in Congress for Schenectady which is part of the 30th Congressional district, still has not indicated that he is on the side of the people in the current GE strike by signing a statement being circulated

by congressmen and directed to the American people. Approximately 40 congressmen and senators have already attached their signatures including Congressman William T. Byrne of Albany county. The statement calls for "full moral and financial support" for the strikers in General Electric, General Motors and Westinghouse, all represented by UE.

Senators who have signed the statement, include James M. Heast of New York, Haney M. Kilgore of West Virginia, Joseph F. Gaffey of Pennsylvania and Robert M. LaFollette of Wisconsin. In addition to Congressman Byrne, members of the House of Representatives who have signed include Emmanuel Celler and John J. Rooney of New York; and many others from all over the country.

Truman Cited

Signers of the statement cite President Truman's State of the Union message, in which the Chief Executive declared that "most industries and most companies have adequate leeway within which to grant substantial wage increases."

The statement being circulated among Congress members further asserts: "The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO, has for several months attempted, through collective bargaining, to achieve a wage increase made necessary by a reduction in take-home pay following V-J Day, in order to maintain a decent living standard.

CAN USE HELP

Fay Marvin, chairman of the Publicity Committee always has plenty of jobs for people who wish to help out in addition to their picket duties.

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VOLUNTEER FOR ODD JOBS AT UNION HALL

The keynote of the meeting came during the address of Business Agent Leo Jandreau when he read the pledge of support until the strike is won and the 6,000 in the audience stood and repeated each sentence as if in one voice. The great gathering responded again during Jandreau's speech when he called for a mass turnout on the picket line Monday morning and again as one person the crowd roared "We'll be there!"

The gathering in the armory was unique in Schenectady history: The speeches of Jandreau, and of William Moran, for the locomotive workers, of Mayor Mills Ten Eyck, of Congressman William T. Byrne, of Karlis Ozoles, engineer speaking for the Independent Citizens' Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, and of Clifford McEvoy, UE legislative representative in Washington, plus the appearances by Actor Howard Da Silva, Comedian Zero Mostel and other figures in the theater, made up the widest representation of support for a workers' struggle that has ever been seen here.

They have been patrolling their lonely beat since the start of the strike, walking by the gate and keeping an eye on it from the picket headquarters in Bill's lunch room.

The nearest thing to an incident on the beat came one night this week when two men claimed to have left their tools in the plant tried to talk their way past Brother Giuzio without union passes. He firmly turned them back.

They're Fun - They're Yours - They're Free

CIO Nights - Redman's Hall

Talent Night - Sun., 8 P.M.

Where anyone who can dance, sing, or make people laugh can do their stuff, and get paid for it (WITH APPLAUSE).

OTHER PARTIES SCHEDULED

February 14—Dance

February 25—Phil Lawrence and Orchestra for dancing

February 28—Dance

CIO FUN HEADQUARTERS — Cor. Liberty and Ferry Sts.

ORIGINAL TORN