

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol 13 — No. 16

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

May 6, 1954

## GE PLANS 3,850 CUTBACK HERE — UE FIGHTS BACK!

A high GE official told the UE National Negotiating Committee on April 27 that the company plans to cut another 3,850 workers off its payroll in Schenectady.

The company spokesman who delivered this "declaration of war" on Schenectady jobs was James A. Reid,

GE's chief negotiator. He made his announcement under persistent questioning by George Bunt, a Bldg. 269 worker, who is one of the UE Local 301 representatives on the UE negotiating team.

Reid's layoff figures check with figures previously revealed by GE President Ralph W. Cordiner. They underline the absolute importance of uniting behind UE's campaign to keep GE Schenectady working and to protect the job security of the UE Contract.

UE Local 301 has filed mass grievances on a number of jobs the company wants to move. Under the UE contract, the company is prohibited from moving jobs involved in an active grievance.

In national negotiations, UE is demanding a 35-hour week without reduction in pay as a

(Continued on Page 3)

## WORKERS IN MANY BUILDINGS RALLY TO UE 301 JOB FIGHT

The fight to keep jobs in Schenectady is being taken up by increasing numbers of workers concerned about layoffs and their effect upon rates, seniority, working conditions.

The success of UE Essington workers in stopping Westinghouse from moving out 2,500

jobs helped spur the fight here.

Building 269 meetings raised the demand that "not a job, not a machine be moved." Committees of Tube workers visited other buildings for support, while UE Local 301 called upon all to join the job fight.

Mass grievances were filed in a number of buildings where layoffs, short work weeks, downgrading are spreading as a result of jobs moving out.

"Stop farming out our jobs," demands a Bldg. 107 grievance. Petitions and leaflets hitting the transfer of jet jobs to John-

son City from Bldg. 46, circulated in the A & O Division.

Wherever there were sizeable layoffs, there were reports of downgradings, pressure on rates, seniority violations. UE Local 301 led these fights, too.

A UE delegation also met with Henry G. Pfeil, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Schenectady County, as part of a campaign to inform city officials on the deteriorating work situation and enlist their aid in UE's "Keep Schenectady Working" campaign.

### FIGHTING FOR JOBS

Pictured below is the UE delegation which met with Henry G. Pfeil, Chairman of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors. The delegates are Bernice Gouthey, Bldg. 69; Gertrude Bruch, Chairman of the Unemployment Committee; George Bunt, 269 (front row); and Mario Valdez, UE Local 333; Natalie Patnode, 269; and Connie Stage, 269 (back row).



### UE 301 JOB PROGRAM

- A 35-hour week for 40 hours pay
- Not a job, not a machine to move out at the expense of a single GE Schenectady worker
- No runaway shops — No farming out
- Bring up the wage levels in all GE shops to the UE scale
- A substantial wage increase and tax relief for working people to raise purchasing power

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## UE Wins 19c Job Rate Boost For 7 In Turbine

The importance of having a fighting union on the job at a time when layoffs and bumping are forcing hundreds of workers to take big pay cuts was underlined last week by an important UE grievance victory involving seven workers in Bldg. 273. As a result of the grievance settlement, the seven men were placed on jobs with a 19¢ higher pay rate than the jobs they had been offered.

The seven men were working as B assemblers on stator frames in G-15 of the Turbine Building. They were bumped by workers with longer service. They were offered common labor at \$1.54½. However, UE Steward Dan Del Peco found out that there were better jobs in the chipping and grinding group to which they were entitled.

The workers came up to UE Local 301 headquarters, 201½ Broadway, and there filed a group grievance. As a result of the fight led by UE, the company backed down and agreed to live up to the seniority clauses of the UE-GE contract. The men got chipping and grinding jobs — job rate \$1.73½ an hour.

The workers were also allowed shift preference on their new jobs.

Benefiting from the grievance victory were Kenneth Kennedy, James Ledbetter, Robert Miller, John Talmadge, Kenneth Talmadge, Jack Thatcher and Richard Tortorici.

### UE Wins NLRB Vote

UE last week defeated a raid at the Wayne Pump Co. in Fort Wayne, Indiana, by a nearly 2 to 1 margin. The vote was UE 181; IAM-AFL 116.

### UE LOCAL 301 COMBINED MEETING Members and Stewards

1st and 3rd Shifts  
MONDAY, MAY 10, 1954  
7:30 P. M.

Second Shift  
12 MIDNIGHT  
(After Work Monday)

SCOTTISH HALL  
205 CLINTON STREET

2 • Thursday, May 6, 1954

## UE 301 Blocks 33½c Pay Slash

Frank Meingossner, a bench assembler in Bldg. 89, was bumped off his job on which he had been earning \$1.88 an hour. The worker who had supposedly bumped him had higher seniority so Frank took the only job that was offered him, common labor in Bldg. 273 Q-Bay. The rate was \$1.54½ an hour.

A short time later, Brother Meingossner had occasion to return to his old area in 89. There he found that instead of the worker who he thought had bumped him being on his old job, another man with less seniority was there.

Frank immediately filed a grievance which was processed by UE Local 301. The case was won and Brother Meingossner is now back on his old bench assembly job with the old rate.

## UE SETS AREA MEETINGS IN FIVE NEARBY TOWNS

In order to make it easier for UE Local 301 members who live out of Schenectady to take part in their union's activities, the local has scheduled five special meetings in area communities, beginning with an Amsterdam gathering next Tuesday.

### UE Files Grievance Against Farming Out

UE has filed a grievance against the Company policy of farming out Building 107 work. This grievance affects all Grounds and Buildings workers.

Workers of 107, and all over the plant, are suffering from the company's policy of moving out jobs to other cities and farming out work to outside contractors. The company's practice results in layoffs, indiscriminate bumping and rate cutting.

UE maintains that the Company is violating the contract when 107 people are laid off because outside contractors are taking their jobs. This is no legitimate "lack of work!"



## IT PAYS TO BE UE

When a comparison is made between the wage rates of UE and IUE workers in GE plants, money speaks in favor of UE.

This bread-and-butter fact speaks louder than all the promises and boasts of Carey's IUEers.

Following is a comparison of the day rates in GE Schenectady and in GE Syracuse. The jobs are the same! The company the same! The difference — the union!

### COMPARISON OF DAY RATES

	UE, SCHENECTADY	IUE-CIO, SYRACUSE
Electrician	\$2.29½	\$2.16
Carpenter	2.24	2.00½
Machine Repair	2.24	2.00½
Mason	2.24	2.00½
Millwright	2.24	2.08½
Tinsmith	2.24	2.00½
Toolmaker	2.48	2.36
Welder	2.24	2.00½
Shop Truck Operator	1.64-1.69	1.59
Laborer	1.54½	1.51½
Matron	1.41	1.353
Cleaner, office	1.41	1.353
Trades Helper	1.64-1.86	1.59

## GE PLANS BIG CUTBACK

Means of keeping up employment, and the elimination of geographical wage differentials, to discourage job moving.

Last October, Cordiner blurted out that 10,000 workers would be cut from the GE Schenectady payroll. He said the company plans to return to "normal" or "pre-Korean" levels.

This announcement caused so much concern and demand for assurances against layoffs that Leo Jandreau came out with a statement that "all would be normal by April." This statement takes on new significance in the light of Jandreau's desertion to IUE-CIO.

The so-called "normal" level between 1946 and 1950 was 27,600. On Mar. 24 at the NLRB hearing, the company reported around 40,000 employees. A month later, A. C. Stevens reported a drop to 38,500.

Now, Reid comes along with a forecast of 3,850 additional layoffs. It's getting down toward Cordiner's figure of 30 per cent cut in the Schenectady working force. IUE-CIO's Carey has gone Cordiner one better with a published endorsement of layoffs up to 50 per cent.

These layoffs would set off a chain of bumping which could

## Active Unionist Wins Case in 81

Nicholas Fioriti of Bldg. 81 has succeeded in having two "unfavorable progress reports" in effect cancelled thanks to the efforts of UE Local 301.

Foreman W. H. Woolf had not even shown the trumped-up reports to Fioriti, long an active union member. As a result, the Bldg. 81 worker filed a grievance at UE headquarters.

The union took the discrimination case to management and there won agreement that GE would officially place on the record a statement that the reports would at no time be held against Fioriti.

### Carey's Local Strikes To Catch Up To UE Pay

Philco workers of IUE-CIO Local 101, Carey's home local, have struck in an effort to bring their pay closer to UE levels and to prevent the company from cutting them down even more. Seven Philco plants are out.

Although the basic wage of Philco workers averages only \$1.63 an hour (20¢ to 35¢ below the UE average in GE), the company is now trying to wipe out the pension plan and other fringe benefits worth approximately 5¢ an hour.

## UE LOCAL 301 ON RADIO

Get the right score first thing every morning!

Listen to "TOP TUNES" on Station WSNY — 6:30 - 7:00 A.M. . . . Monday through Friday.

Music . . . Headline News . . . News of your Job . . . Timechecks . . . Weather Reports . . . Ball Scores . . . Special feature: "Who Said That?" UE Local 301 on Station WSNY every morning 6:30 - 7:00 A.M.

Hear UE on the air every morning and every afternoon. Listen to "Top Tunes" at 6:30 A.M. and "Music Hall" & "Take It Easy" 2:00 to 4:30 P.M. . . . Station WSNY . . . 1240 on your dial.

## Runaway Plants Called "Reckless" by Expert

A noted Harvard economist has warned of the dangers in present plans for plant expansion such as the one announced by General Electric.

Professor Alvin H. Hansen said, "It is surely unwise and reckless to go on adding more and more plants and equipment."

## They Couldn't Work For GE Now



Under the Cordiner McCarthyite policy, neither Charles P. Steinmetz, the great inventive genius of General Electric, nor Albert Einstein, whose work is responsible for the development of atomic energy, could work for GE today.

Steinmetz was a life-long Socialist. He was elected as President of the Schenectady Common Council on the Socialist ticket and also served as Chairman of the Schenectady Board of Education, a job he was appointed to by Socialist Mayor Lunn.

Professor Einstein has urged all Americans to resist the McCarthyite inquisitions. He has staunchly upheld the rights of Americans to defend the First and Fifth Amendments of the Constitution and refuse to answer questions on political belief or associations before the McCarthyite committees.

This, under the General Electric Co. McCarthyite policy is grounds for firing. Workers in Schenectady, Lynn, Erie and Syracuse, members of AFL, IUE-CIO and UE have lost their livelihoods because they would not give up their rights as Americans.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Thursday, May 6, 1954 • 3



## UE 301 DELEGATES GET FIRST HAND STORY OF ESSINGTON JOB VICTORY

A delegation of Schenectady GE workers this week got the first-hand story of UE's successful fight to save 2,600 Turbine jobs at the big Essington, Pa., Westinghouse plant. The fact-finding group reported on their findings after returning from Essington on Monday evening. Members of the group were Elsa Ferguson, Bldg. 69; George Crandall, 273; and Bill Whitney, 273.

During two days in Essington, the UE Local 301 delegates met with officers and members of UE Local 107. The fact finders were told the story of how the Essington local had won a one-year fight to prevent Westinghouse from moving the Air Gas Turbine Division to a non-union plant in Kansas City.

The fight had been waged in the plant, through the UE grievance procedure, in the community and through pressure on Philadelphia area political leaders.

### TURBINE UNITY IN UE

The meeting of Essington and Schenectady workers was particularly significant since the two plants together turn out more than 90% of the turbines produced in the U. S.

Essington workers pointed out that this meant that the Turbine industry was united in UE. They pledged to give any help they could in making sure that this unity was preserved.

As a result of UE's victory in the job fight, a United Labor Committee to fight for jobs in the Philadelphia area was formed last week with UE, the CIO textile workers, the CIO steelworkers, the CIO transport workers, the AFL electricians, the AFL machinists and the AFL boilermakers among those participating.

Only the IUE-CIO is opposing this unity, with Carey trying unsuccessfully to put pressure on the other CIO unions to withdraw from the unity committee.

### Fact Finders



These UE Local 301 members got the facts on UE Local 107's job fight victory by going to Essington, Pa. Pictured upper right is Mrs. Elsa Ferguson, Bldg. 69. Directly above are Bill Whitney, Kenneth Brantly and George Crandall, all 273. Brantly was seeing his fellow Turbine workers off.

## THE \$40,000 MELON and the MISSING \$55,000

There can no longer be any question that money—lots of it—is involved in the switch of the Jandreau clique to IUE-CIO.

It is not only the \$40,000 melon tossed to the Jandreau group by GE in advance of the secession move, nor is it alone the missing \$55,000 which the members of the dollar clique say is hidden in an undisclosed out-of-state bank.

This is small stuff compared to the money GE workers will lose if the company-financed raid is successful. The cost can be guessed at from the company's recent moves against wage rates and conditions, and from the developing pattern of CIO negotiated wage cuts and speedup.

Jandreau and his staff of 11 paid themselves the equivalent of 14 weeks' pay on Mar. 4 out of the \$40,000 from the company. This would be \$2,100 for Jandreau alone. The members never authorized this. They did not know of this until Jandreau confessed on May 3 under pressure of UE and a court-appointed audit.

What became of the rest of the \$40,000?

Missing also, or at least beyond the control of the members, is \$55,000 belonging to the UE membership. Jandreau stated through IUE-CIO attorney Jules Gilbert of New York City that the money is in some bank somewhere out of state.

Where? For whose use? By whose authority?

The company says that it gave Jandreau \$40,000 out of the wages of the workers through the checkoff. Getting the workers to finance the destruction of their own union and conditions is the most cynical and brazen stunt yet pulled by GE and the Carey-Jandreau clique.

But we can expect even more desperate financial maneuvers as the defeat of the company-aided IUE-CIO raid becomes a certainty.

# UE Facts For Action

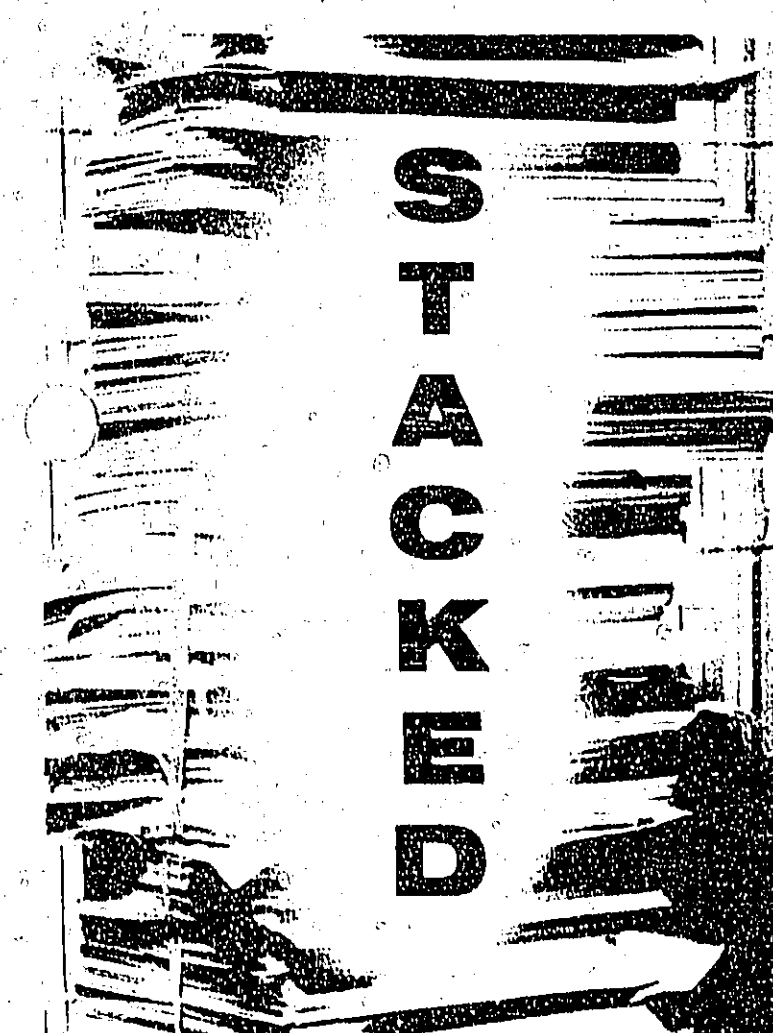
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MAY 11, 1954

## MISSING-\$118,000

Leo Jandreau and Marshall White took \$118,535.76 out of the members' account between March 2 and March 12. Proof of this misappropriation of union funds came to light two months later—after court action and UE investigations.

### PROOF!



Photographic Reproduction of Actual Lost Time Cards for Those Paid To Vote "Switch" To IUE-CIO, March 15, 1954

(See Other Side)

Donald Jenkins, Treasurer of the Industrial Bank of Schenectady, testified on May 6 that only \$24 is left in the members' account!

The big sums involved in Carey's raid are small compared to what the members stand to lose if the IUEers are successful.

- The contract would be lost.
- Plantwide seniority would be lost.
- Rate protection would be lost.

What the company stands to gain if the members lose their plantwide seniority and rate protection staggers the imagination.

GE profits have already jumped 42% in 1954.

Imagine what the company would pocket if it is given a free hand to slash rates, replace thousands of workers with automatic machines, move Schenectady jobs to low-wage sweat shops.

How profits would soar if the IUE-CIO came in to negotiate wage cuts and speedup as the CIO has just done in auto and textile!

Let's end this threat to our pay checks and jobs.

The raid has already cost plenty in rate cuts, downgradings, unjust layoffs, speed up.

GE workers are uniting in every building on the basis of rank and file unionism to defeat the attacks of the company and smash the IUE-CIO raid.

## WE'VE PAID ENOUGH! DEFEAT THE CLIQUE! UNITE TO KEEP THE UE CONTRACT!

### \$118,000 IN 10 DAYS — A CHECK-BY-CHECK-ACCOUNT

List of Checks Drawn by Jandreau and White from Industrial Bank of Schenectady, 3-2-54 to 3-12-54:

\$10,000.00	3/5	4,644.50	3/12	7,656.00
5,000.00	3/8	1,218.38	3/12	330.00
1,851.99	3/9	2,000.00	3/12	19,900.00
2,700.00	3/10	2,500.00		
2,294.25	3/10	1,000.00		
21,440.72	3/10	35,000.00	TOTAL	\$118,545.76