

1000 Increase Shown In Union Membership

Although the number of workers employed at the Schenectady GE plant remained about the same, Local 301 had about 1,000 more dues-paying members at the close of 1946 than it did a year ago.

Adam Boss, in charge of union records, said the close-of-the-year report showed about 14,000 union members, in contrast to about 13,000 at the end of 1945.

"Our partially completed membership drive was responsible for much of the increase," he said.

The local received about 50 applications for membership in the last week or 10 days from workers who have not belonged to the union before, Boss reported.

"As our membership drive hasn't been resumed yet on the section-by-section basis," he said, "these new applications show the organizing prospects are bright for 1947. The new members come from all parts of the shop."

Women's Right to Work Until Midnight Upheld

The Executive Board voted Monday in favor of New York state continuing to allow women to work until midnight in factories instead of returning Apr. 1 to the pre-war 10 p.m. limit.

Women in the Schenectady GE plant went on record overwhelmingly in favor of midnight, as against the 10 p.m. limit, in a poll recently taken by the union.

The Board has informed the State Labor Department about the result of the poll and will recommend the Local 301 membership meeting Feb. 18 approve continuing the midnight limit.

Unless legislation is passed this session at Albany, the 10 p.m. limit will automatically be restored Apr. 1. Senator Condon has introduced a bill to extend for another year the wartime permission to work till midnight.

Women's weekly earnings would be cut by returning to the 10 p.m. limit, as their work shifts would be shortened.

Tune In

The Local 301 radio broadcast can be heard at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over Station WSNY. Milo Lathrop of the UE District 3 staff has charge of the program and usually does the broadcasting.

This week's program pointed out the dangers of the drive against the closed shop.

Open Shop Drive Aimed at Farm Co-Ops Too; Farmers' Standards of Living Are Threatened

The axe is being sharpened for real farmers' organizations as well as for labor unions.

Lou Slocum, National Farmers Union organizer in the 31st Congressional District, has pointed out the close connection between the attack on the workers and the farmers.

Save February 15 For CIO Meeting

The Legislative Committee of Local 301 has asked for a big turn-out of members of the union for the legislative conference which the Capital District CIO Council will stage in Albany Saturday, Feb. 15. The meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. in the WOKO auditorium, 8 Elk St.

Speakers will be Lee Pressman, CIO general counsel; Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative; State Senator Kenneth Sherbell, ALF, only CIO member in the Senate; Ewart Guinier, secretary-treasurer and legislative representative of the New York District, United Public Workers, CIO; Lou Slocum, organizer for the National Farmers Union; Frieda Schwenkmeyer, who has just returned to Troy after organizing for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in Nashville, Tenn., and Charles Schirmer, business agent of an Albany local of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL.

Pressman will speak on the portal-portal suits and the legislation aimed at them, as well as on anti-labor bills in general.

Fred Pacelli, Roy Lash and William Mastriani, Council president, are on the Council committee in charge of the conference.

No Pay Increase Yet For Local Teachers

The Schenectady Board of Education was still stalling about giving pay raises to local teachers from state funds when this week's issue of EU News went to press.

Many other communities have already started paying the increases from the \$300 per teacher provided by New York state for temporary raises to stretch over the next 15 months.

Meeting Monday

The Activities Committee will meet at 8 p.m. Monday night in room 2B at 301 Hall. Plans will be made for the annual Field Day June 29 at Pete and Sally's Grove.

Open Shop Drive

"The drive for the open shop is on," he said. "Senator Taft has proposed banning the closed shop. In Albany, Senator Bontecou has a similar bill. Of course, this is all in preparation for pushing down the living standards of labor."

"What about the farmer? The axe is being whetted for his organizations and his standards of living, too. There is an outfit known as the NTEA (National Tax Equality Association) which is putting on a tremendous propaganda drive to tax the co-operatives out of existence. It so happens that co-operatives such as the Grain Terminal Association, which has a membership of over 200,000 farmers, form the base of the National Farmers Union in the mid-west."

Co-ops in Danger

"Or take the example closer to home. Thanks to the financial help of Local 301, the Farmers Union, Northeastern Division, has organized the members of the Fly Creek Valley Milk Co-op in Otsego County. This co-op was built in 1937. It had a terrific battle to establish itself in territory previously controlled by National Dairy and the Dairymen's League, a co-op commonly believed to be closely tied to the Borden Co. The Fly Creek Co-op has generally paid its members 10 cents cwt. above the surrounding plants. Supposing it were taxed out of the market? Then its members would again be at the mercy of the Milk Trust. The same is true of the Canajoharie Co-op in Montgomery County."

The Federal government has started to hedge on its guarantees to farmers and poultrymen, Slocum pointed out. The small farmer is being hit on two sides, by the Food Trusts and by the large corporate farms.

"The pressure is on to push the small farmer off the land," Slocum said. "The National Farmers Union's program is built around the preservation of the family-size farm."

Membership Meeting

The next membership meeting of Local 301 will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the union hall.

Electrical Union News

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

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Truth About Trial Angers GE Company

Factual reporting of the Federal Court trial of the Carboly cartel charges involving GE last week stung the "Works News" into a childish attack on the "UE News", the newspaper published by the national UE.

The truth is that General Electric Company is accustomed to have the daily papers print what GE wants, namely to play up attacks on unions and even minor charges against union leaders, but to bury the news about criminal charges against big corporations and their heads. And because Big Business cannot control labor papers in this way, it becomes hysterical in its attacks on the labor press.

GE on Defensive

That is why the "Works News" turns over its whole front page to an attempt to deny the charges which the government contends are solidly backed up by evidence, by documents, and by material found in the Krupp files in Germany. GE would have you believe instead the rosy picture of international cartel operation which GE calls "The Story of Carboly."

The national "UE News" will undoubtedly make its own comment. But the issue is simple. The government claims it can prove that GE entered into a conspiracy with the Nazi Krupp firm in 1928 to control the sale of carboly, and that this boosted the price of carboly more than 800 percent.

Important News

International cartels have played a major role in bringing on wars. They continue to have a serious bearing on the national welfare. The court story of the activities of one such cartel agreement is of vital importance to the whole nation. GE's monopoly price policies are of very direct interest to GE workers. The whole story is to a great extent being suppressed by the daily press, because the daily press is controlled by Big Business. In reporting the court action to our membership, the labor press is rendering a big service to our members and the nation. Noisy, childish attacks won't stop it.

Membership Meeting

The monthly membership meeting of Local 301 will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the union hall.

Meeting Next Week On Machinists' Case

An appointment has been made for a Local 301 Committee to meet with GE national management on the machinists' case at 9 a. m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in the GE office, New York City.

The case involves wage rates of machinists (machine repair) and tool-room machine operators. Local GE management turned down the union's demands for rate adjustments.

The Local 301 committee, a sub-committee elected from the machinists' committee, consists of Lawrence DiLallo, and James Morrett, both of Bldg. 53, and Fred Pacelli, Bldg. 101, assisted by Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Welders' Problems

Welders from Bldgs. 52 and 66 met Monday night at the union hall to discuss piece price problems, difficulties in settling grievances and bad safety and health conditions.

Board Member James Cognetta acted as chairman and John Sutter of Bldg. 52 was elected secretary. The group will meet again in six weeks.

Meetings will be called for set-up men and chippers in the same buildings soon.

301 Broadcast

Don't miss the weekly radio broadcast of Local 301. It's at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over Station WSNY.

Income Tax Help

Union members who want help making out their federal income tax returns should come to 301 Hall week days, Mar. 8 through Mar. 14. There will be two U. S. government tax experts on hand from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist them.

Local Takes Up Turbine Problems With Management

Chiseling practices in the Turbine Division, which members there believe reflect a general drive to cut piece prices, speed up workers, and reduce services, were taken up with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, in a lengthy special meeting last week. Another meeting will be arranged after Stevens has checked the complaints.

The situation was discussed with Stevens by a committee of nine shop representatives from the division. The committee was picked by a larger representative meeting which went over the evidences of an over-all drive by the new supervision in Turbine to increase profits at the expense of workers' earnings and safety.

Many Grievances Reported

The committeemen cited the recent experimentation with carboly tools on turret lathes in Bldg. 60, despite the fact that these tools have been in use for many years, as indicating preparations to cut prices.

They pointed out difficulties with prices on the small lathes in 60; moving of an assembly job from Bldg. 60 to Bldg. 49 at a lower job rate; introduction of a price chart in 49 which would cut standard prices; refusal to pay for rework on incidental spoiled work, and refusal to give the notice of change of price required by the contract.

Accidents from Speed-ups

They also called attention to reductions in crane and porter services, speed-up pressure on day workers, and the fact that there had been three accidents (Continued on Page 4)

Contract Sessions

Opening negotiations for the 1947 GE contract are scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday in New York City. Leo Jandreau is on the UE negotiating committee elected by the GE Conference Board.

Asks Raises at Once For Local Teachers

President Andrew Peterson has written to Mrs. Jessie Zoller, president of the Schenectady Board of Education, to urge that Schenectady teachers at once receive the \$300 increase already provided from state funds for that purpose.

His letter stated that the shop committeemen Feb. 4 voted unanimously to support the demands of school teachers for higher wages.

"It is high time that this group of working people did receive proper consideration for their services rendered to our community," he said.

Copies of the letter were sent to the Superintendent of School, Speaker Oswald D. Heck of the Assembly and State Senator Thomas Campbell who represents Schenectady County.

A. J. Duffy, vice president of the Schenectady Federation of Teachers, AFL, spoke on the teachers' wage problems at the Committeemen's meeting.

Although many nearby communities have granted the \$300 raises made available by the state, the Schenectady Board of Education took no action Feb. 6 at a special meeting. Both the Schenectady Teachers Association and the AFL group criticized the Board's indecision. They described the morale of local teachers as abbing because of the delay.

Stewards Urged to Attend CIO Conference in Albany

The Local 301 Committeemen's meeting last week voted to urge all shop representatives to attend the legislative conference of the Capital District CIO Council Saturday, Feb. 15. The meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. in the WOKO auditorium, 8 Elk St., Albany.

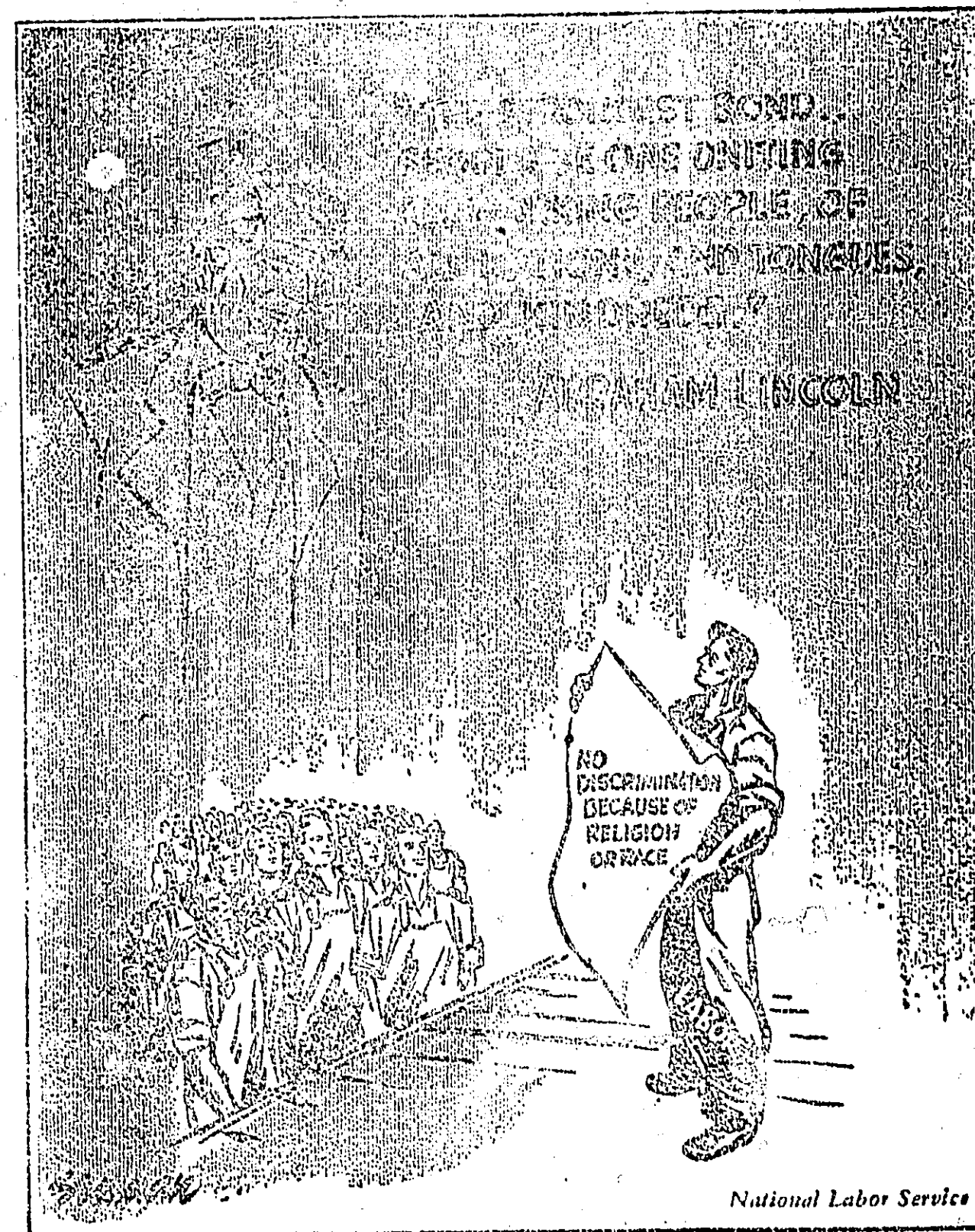
Official delegates of the local at the conference will be the Legislative Committee members and the CIO Council delegates.

Principal speakers will be Lee Pressman, CIO general counsel, and Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative.

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Grievance Appeals

Don't forget that tomorrow, like every Friday, is grievance day for Local 301 members.

The grievance appeals committee set up by the Executive Board meets at the union hall at 4 p.m. Fridays to act on complaints by members as to the handling of a grievance by a committeemen or by the business agent or any assistant.

If second shift members are involved, the grievance appeals committee will meet at 1 p.m. too.

A member with a complaint should notify the union office. The union will notify all interested parties and the matter will be heard at the next committee meeting.

Lost-Time Checks

The new accounting machine of Local 301 was used in making out, posting and addressing checks for lost time which will be mailed tomorrow and Monday to committeemen and Board members. Checks will be sent out twice a month from now on.

Board Stand Approved On Women's Work Hours

Shop committeemen at their meeting Feb. 4 approved the action of the Executive Board in recommending that New York state continue to allow women to work to midnight, instead of restoring a 10 p.m. limit. A poll of the women workers in the Schenectady GE plant showed them overwhelmingly in favor of the right to work till midnight.

The Committeemen's meeting also backed the Board's stand in favor of the Isolation Hospital being continued and in favor of appointment of a woman policeman in Schenectady.

GE Pensioners to Meet

A meeting of GE pensioners who belonged to Local 301 will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the 301 Hall, to discuss their pension problems and to support the UE contract proposal for a minimum pension of \$100 a month.

The meeting was planned by a group of pensioners who met last week at the union hall. The group decided to form a permanent organization and prepare a broader meeting to elect officers and start activities.

Board and Stewards Back UE Officers' Protest Against GE Wilson as 'Civil Rights' Chairman

Because the record of GE President Charles E. Wilson in the suppression of strikers' civil liberties shows he is not fit to serve as chairman of President Truman's Civil Rights Committee, CIO Secretary James B. Carey should resign from the committee.

This is the stand taken by the 301 Shop Committeemen's meeting Feb. 4 and the Executive Board meeting the day before. Both meetings voted to support the action of international UE officers in urging that Carey withdraw from the committee.

President Truman set up the Civil Rights Committee last Dec. 12 and appointed Wilson chairman and Carey as one of the 15 committee members. International UE officers considered the appointment of Wilson "an insult to the tens of thousands of UE members and especially to our membership in GE."

Wilson Unfit for Chairmanship

They recalled his role in the suppression of civil liberties through the use of injunctions in attempts to break the strike in 1946, his persecution of strikers during and after the strike, his attempts to railroad strikers to jail.

They remembered Wilson's statement during the GE strike when the Philadelphia police brutally attacked the strikers, to the effect that "the Philadelphia police were attacked and used only such force against union rioters as to protect themselves."

In the opinion of UE international officers, the record clearly shows that Wilson has been leading the fight for the suppression of civil rights and "certainly is not fit to serve as chairman of a committee whose announced purpose is to protect and extend civil rights."

Therefore the UE officers stated their position to the national CIO office and suggested that Carey withdraw from the committee. After the UE protest was sent to the national CIO, Carey issued the following press statement:

"The appointment of Mr. Charles E. Wilson of the General Electric Company as chairman of the committee was a particularly happy choice, since he has a long background of public service and unusual understanding of community problems."

The Local 301 Executive Board voted to support the international UE officers in urging Carey's resignation from the Civil Rights Committee, with one dissenting vote. William Hodges voted "No."

The Committeemen's meeting, in addition to approving the Board's stand, voted in favor of publicizing the Civil Rights Committee situation in the local papers.

UE Conference On Legislation

Labor, farm, business and legislative speakers will take part in the UE legislative conference at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the Hotel Ten Eyck ballroom, Albany. The conference is sponsored by UE District 3 and the New York City section of District 4.

Speakers will include Archie Wright, president of the north-east division, National Farmers Union; Raymond N. Alberts of Esperance, business man; former Assemblyman Leo Isacson, now legislative director of the American Labor Party; and Julius Emspak, international UE secretary-treasurer. Mr. Alberts' topic will be, "Don't Forget Small Business."

Plans are under way to assure a good turn-out from Local 301. All members of the union are welcome.

GE Denies Appeals In Hardship Cases

Carrying out his previous announcement that local management will not consider postponing any compulsory retirement of employees coming under the new pension plan, regardless of need, Charles G. Marcy, supervisor of personnel, last week turned down requests in two cases of severe hardship.

Both men had service records of about 30 years each. Because of low earnings, their pensions from GE will be about \$30 a month each. Their only other regular income will be meager payments under Social Security. Their slight savings were eaten up by frequent temporary lay-offs for lack of work during the past year.

The cases will be brought up to the national management and cited in support of the contract proposal for a minimum monthly pension of \$100.

Stewards Approve 1947 Committees

Standing committees of Local 301 for 1947, as named by the Executive Board recently, were approved by the Shop Committeemen's meeting Feb. 4. These eight committees will have their organizing meetings at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, at the union hall. Pictures will be taken for EU News.

Members of the new committees are as follows:

Constitution Committee: Frank Emspak, Bldg. 46; George Walker, Bldg. 73; Edward Wallingford, Bldg. 60; Roy Lash, Bldg. 60, and Blanchard Mowers, Bldg. 77.

Grievance Committee: President Andrew Peterson, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, Recording Secretary Helen Quirini, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and his assistants and the Board William Kelly and Victor Pasche. Board member affected by the individual case.

Activities Committee: Gordon Belgrave, Bldg. 17; George Judway, Bldg. 18; Vincent Iovinella, Bldg. 10; Sadie Iovinella, Bldg. 89; Sam De Cesare, Bldg. 105; Lanson Cole, Bldg. 89; Edith B. Cole, Bldg. 89; E. J. La BBombard, Bldg. 97; Joseph Scardino, Bldg. 28; Manuel Fernandez, Bldg. 269; Stanley Bishop, Bldg. 69; Anthony Villano, Bldg. 37; James Cognetta, Bldg. 52; Samuel Scott, Bldg. 285, and Helen Nichols, Bldg. 269.

Finance Committee: Treasurer Marshall White, Eugene Le Moine, Bldg. 85, and Albert Davis, Bldg. 10.

Editorial Committee: Willard Kuschel, Bldg. 46; Mary McCartin, Bldg. 28; Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent; Leland Sisto, Bldg. 269, and William Templeton, Bldg. 11.

House Committee: Sidney Friedlander, Bldg. 17; Michael Tedisco, Bldg. 17; Al Peirah, Bldg. 64; Henry Busse, Bldg. 68, and A. J. Spears, Bldg. 107.

Veterans' Committee: Joseph Dominelli, Bldg. 64; Dewey Brashear, Bldg. 89; Joseph Krawlecki, Bldg. 64; Joseph Pasquavella, Bldg. 105; Joseph Mangino, Bldg. 77; Roy Canice, Bldg. 86; George De Cresce, Bldg. 73, and Horace Perryman, Bldg. 18.

Organization Committee: Fred Pacelli, Bldg. 101; Rudy Ellis, Bldg. 46; Charles Ferris, Bldg. 63; Anthony Esposito, Bldg. 63, and William Stewart, Bldg. 60.

Speaks at Senate Hearing

Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to oppose bills which would outlaw portal-to-portal pay suits.