

Executive Board Lobbies For State Legislation

Last Monday evening Executive Board members braved hazardous driving conditions, caused by the heavy snow and sleet storm, while traveling to the State Capitol in Albany to notify key legislators that organized labor's legislative program for New York State should be supported by them.

While many of the legislators were late in arriving at their offices, with some just prior to the convening of the Monday evening session, we were able to contact a number of Senators and Assemblymen and urged them to support, in particular, legislation dealing with Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation.

The Board members formed committees of two and three, with each committee assigned to contact certain Assemblymen and Senators. Among those contacted was the Speaker of

the Assembly, Oswald D. Heck, who indicated that something would be done this year for labor. Likewise, the Chairman of the powerful Labor and Industry Committee of the Assembly, Mr. Ostrander, claimed certain bills had been introduced dealing with liberalizing the Unemployment Insurance Law which would increase the maximum from \$36.00 to \$40.00 per week. He said that while this increase was justified under the rules that were used a year ago when the maximum was increased, there was indication that certain legislators would oppose this increase if labor did not exercise their influence. He pointed out that the Hughes Committee, that was responsible for the Hughes-Breés Amendments several years ago which emasculated the original Unemployment Insurance Law, would be responsible to recom-

mend liberalizing the present law in any way. On Workmen's Compensation he did not think there was any indication at this time for improvements. He pointed out that industry had done such a pressure job on the legislators, protesting the compensation insurance rates, that the average legislator was reluctant to move on liberalizing the law. The Moorland Committee, he went on to say, has been investigating the Workmen's Compensation cost and has not come out with a report. However, Thomas H. Brown, an Assemblyman from Troy, went all out in support of our legislative program. A signed letter is printed in another column of this paper.

A sub-committee of the Executive Board will follow up on the contacts made last Monday.

Westinghouse Workers Still Out!

Your Support Is Needed!

You Can Help By
Purchasing Strike Stamps

See Your Shop Steward Today!

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 2—No. 17

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

February 24, 1956

IUE Accepts Mediator's New Proposal

The IUE on February 6 accepted the new mediation proposal in the Westinghouse strike and offered to start bargaining on that basis next morning in Pittsburgh. The proposal was made February 4 by Joseph Finnegan, Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

IUE Files NLRB Charges Against W

Unfair labor practice charges against Westinghouse were filed by IUE with the National Labor Relations Board February 3.

W Refuses to Bargain

The Union's complaint charged Westinghouse has "refused and continues to refuse" to bargain collectively since September 15, and has refused to negotiate in good faith.

The complaint was filed as talks in Washington brought no nearer settlement the strike that started October 17, 1955.

Pointing out that under the existing contract, which does not expire until October 15, 1956, only wages and time studies of day workers are open for negotiation, the complaint said Westinghouse insists on a five-year agreement.

W Refuses Information

The complaint also charges that Westinghouse has refused to furnish IUE with the information necessary for intelligent bargaining concerning wages and other negotiable matters."

Text of the complaint, filed with the regional NLRB office at Baltimore:

"On and after September 15, 1955 the company refused and continues to refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of its employees by declining to negotiate in good faith concerning wages and time studies of day workers, which are the only matters open for negotiation under the existing agreement with International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, AFL-CIO, and its affiliated Westinghouse locals; by adamantly insisting that the union conclude a five-

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G. E. Conference Board Meets in Washington, D. C.

The first General Electric Conference Board meeting since the signing of the contract will take place in Washington next Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26.

The Board, which generally meets four times a year, will take up general problems referred to it by the G. E. Locals and will discuss and make recommendations for further activity.

One of the main events that will take place will be the election of a chairman and secretary which are full time jobs.

The delegates to the Conference Board will hear a report on the organizational status of the new G. E. plants. Also, it is expected that a complete report will be made on the Westinghouse strike.

\$10,000 to Westinghouse Strikers

At the February membership and shop stewards meeting held last Monday both the second shift and first and third shifts voted unanimously to donate \$10,000 from Local 301's Building and Defense Fund to the Westinghouse strikers. This will bring the total donations that have been sent to the Westinghouse strikers from Local 301 to \$40,200.

As we go to press, there are no substantial signs of a settlement of the strike. The Westinghouse strike started its fifth month on February 17th and is the longest strike of its size in current years.

The Westinghouse Corporation has completely ignored any proposals made by the U. S. Department of Conciliation that would

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Legislative Committee Reports to Membership

William Stewart, Chairman of the Legislative Sub-Committee for Local 301, made a report to the membership meeting on labor legislation pending in the State Assembly and Senate that will help working men and women and their families if it is passed.

Brother Stewart pointed out, however, that this legislation will not be passed by the State Legislature unless the workers take a hand in notifying their legislative representatives that they should support these particular bills. The legislation referred to affects increasing the maximum benefits for Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation and other similar legislation. (See article in this paper.)

Brother Cognetta pointed out that as the result of a conversation

Stewards Classes Nearly Completed

The Shop Stewards Classes for instruction on contract interpretation and Union procedures, which started on January 24, will end on March 5.

The attendance has been fairly good so far. There will be three sessions to be held before the 1956 school comes to a close. Any Shop Steward who has not been able to attend when he was scheduled may have the opportunity to make it on one of the following dates: Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 29, second shift, at 1:00 p.m.; or Monday, March 5, second shift, at 1:00

Westinghouse, in effect, by the reservations placed on their acceptance of the proposal, turned its back on the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. The Company had stated it would not at that time announce its position on whether it would submit the unresolved issues on the time study dispute to "fact finding or other appropriate procedure" as Finnegan had recommended.

Following a meeting of the IUE Westinghouse Conference Board on February 6, the Union notified Finnegan that the proposal was acceptable to the Union Negotiating Committee. In direct contrast to the Union's efforts to resolve the strike, Westinghouse continues its attempts at union-busting tactics by trying to promote back-to-work movements with bribes and causing continued dissension.

The IUE has filed unfair labor practice charges against Westinghouse as pointed out in another story in this issue.

Trial Committee Elected

A Trial Committee was elected at the February membership meeting to hear charges made by a member in good standing alleging that another member had committed an offense against the good and welfare of the Union.

The charges are in writing and in accordance with our Constitution. The five members who were elected as a Trial Committee will hear both the plaintiff's and the defendant's story and their findings and recommendations will be reported at the March membership meeting for consideration.

Elected to the Trial Committee were the following members:

Thomas McGrath	Bldg. 52
William Pratt	Bldg. 273
George Tracy	Bldg. 107
Arthur Herbert	Bldg. 60
Maynard Columbe	Bldg. 273

IUE-CIO 301 On the Job

IUE Local 301 handles thousands of grievances at all levels each year. These are just a few examples of cases, not settled at steward-foreman level, to be processed at management level.

Bldg. 273: Group under Steward P. Maietta feel that due to their Foreman, A. Schiller, they are being discriminated against in allocation of work. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 107: Group of steelworkers under Shop Steward W. Sanders protest a steel platform being dismantled in Bldg. 49 under Foreman Hallenbeck's jurisdiction. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 12: Group of Winders on Browning Tools under Shop Steward F. Famiano protest requirement to set up their own reels of wire with a hand crane. Union demands management correct this situation by adding service help for this group.

Malta: Thomas Sletcar, Dispatcher in Shop Steward G. Schermerhorn's group, protests assignment of another employee to his job for Saturday work. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 66: James Senese in Shop Steward R. Cannice's group has requested transfer to his former job. Union demands he be transferred since the work load warrants it.

Bldg. 85: Group of Automatic Press Operators under Shop Steward W. Ryan feel their job rate is inadequate for the type of work they are performing. Union demands proper rate increase.

Bldg. 269: R. Lighthall, Assembler Klystron with 1942 service, has been laid off due to lack of work. Union demands proper placement.

Bldg. 77: Group under Shop Steward F. Wilkinson protest reduction in the drum handling group. Union demands 1 drum handler be restored inasmuch as this has always been a 3 man operation.

Bldg. 85: Group under Shop Steward C. Hildreth request a line-up man to line up all motors before they are tested as is the practice in other departments.

Bldg. 46: Group under Shop Steward F. Pacelli protest violation of contract, Article V-9. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 273: S. Kery in Shop Steward L. Marshall's group protests violation of agreement concerning prices for excess stock on backs of feet of turbine shells. Union demands the original pricing structure be adhered to and prices for the operation be planned accordingly.

Bldg. 52: Group under Shop Steward C. Scott protests supervision's intention of reducing number of porters on the Hood Floor by one as another porter is needed on 2nd shift. Union demands 3 porters be left on this job to maintain minimum safety standards.

Bldg. 29: E. Rossi was transferred from her job in violation of seniority as Shop Steward and as a result suffered a loss in earnings. Union demands management correct this violation and reimburse loss of earnings.

Bldg. 105: Group under Shop Steward J. De Georgio protest assignment of Material Moveman's work to Production Followers and prepare for shipment group. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 12: J. Ciccarelli, A. Herrington, F. Durante, J. Cellini, A. Daley, R. Spetia and F. Tallman in Shop Steward F. Famiano's group presented a written grievance protesting supervision's failure to correct prices on Varnish Cambric Coils which are machine jobs, as discussed in Docket #5226-56. Another grievance was presented by 7 Form E. Hand Tapers protesting prices on Varnish Cambric Coils

Tape by Hand. A further grievance was presented for failure to answer according to Contract. Union demands management investigate and correct this entire situation.

Bldg. 273: Group under Shop Steward P. Maietta protest excessive delays in processing their vouchers. Union demands management investigate and correct this situation.

\$10,000 to W Strikers

(Continued from Page 1) lead towards a settlement. Likewise, the Corporation has refused to arbitrate the issues causing the strike even though the Union has publicly stated its willingness to do so.

Drawings and Specifications for New Building Completed

The drawings and specifications for Local 301's new building are completed. Contractors were notified that copies were available at Union Headquarters and could be obtained by making a deposit of \$25.00.

Contractors are requested to bid on specific construction; for example, main structure including piling, piling separately, electrical work separately, air conditioning and plumbing and heating separately. The deadline for bids will be March 22, 1956.

The Building Committee, along with the architect, has put forth every effort to design the building to provide the minimum requirements to meet the needs of the Union's operation. Likewise, future maintenance and insurance costs have been given every consideration. While the actual cost of the building is not known at this time and will not be until the bids are in and contracts awarded, we are confident that the cost of construction will be as economical as possible without jeopardizing quality and facilities.

As we go to press, the following contractors have indicated an interest in bidding for the construction of the new building:

- Pioneer Construction Corp.
- Hanson Construction Corp.
- MacFarland Construction Corp.
- David L. Ring
- Christensen & Nielsen
- Weber Construction Co.
- Thomas C. Brown
- Roland C. Oswald, Inc.

Legislative Committee Reports

(Continued from Page 1)

with Assemblyman Ostrander, Chairman of the Labor and Industries Committee in the State Assembly, we will not have much labor legislation passed unless the membership lets their representatives know that they are expecting them to support improvements in labor laws pending before the Legislature.

The membership meeting passed a motion that post cards be distributed in the shop so that the members can write their assemblymen and senator. The Executive Board will have these post cards Tuesday morning and will make them available through the Shop Stewards.

Last Week's G.E.'s News

Schenectady, Feb. 15

Schenectady G.E. management today released in a memo a bill entitled "Today's Headlines" a distortion of facts concerning a proposal made by Westinghouse Corp. to compare the Westinghouse offer with that of General Electric.

In trying to find some way to give its competitor, Westinghouse, a pat on the back because of its efforts to try to do a job on the Union, G.E. says it is favorably inclined to comparisons when the record of G.E. speaks for itself. During any negotiations in the past G.E. has refused to accept as a basis of settlement to a dispute, comparative facts with other competitors. Insofar as making comparison, the issues in dispute at Westinghouse are entirely different than those that were in General Electric.

The facts that would lead towards a settlement of the Westinghouse strike lie in the recommendations made by the U. S. Department of Conciliation, which, of course, Westinghouse has ignored up to date and which, of course, G.E. so subtly condones.

**SIGN UP THAT
NON-MEMBER TODAY!**

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee
President.....James J. Cognetta
Vice President.....Joseph Alois
Treasurer.....Joseph Whitbeck
Recording Secretary.....Miles Moon
Ass't Recording Secretary.....Allen E. Townsend
Chief Shop Steward.....William Mastriani
Business Agent.....Leo Jandreau
121 ERIE BLVD. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

Lobby Spent \$1.5 Million

The oil and gas industry spent at least \$1.5 million to "educate" Senators on the natural gas giveaway bill, according to conservative estimates.

One Senator said he estimated that \$25,000 was spent on him alone.

Another reported he had received letters, phone calls and telegrams from relatives he hadn't seen in years. One man, he said, phoned him from a mid-western city, identified himself as the son of a classmate of the Senator's mother 75 years ago, and urged him to vote for the bill.

A third said that a former suitor of his wife got in touch with him, and urged him to vote for the bill.

As Senator George D. Aiken (R., Vt.) put it, "They have checked on who you have ever been associated with, who your friends are, and who has supported you in the past, anybody who ever worked for you or with you, and they get them to contact you. Never since I have been in Washington have I seen such intensive, varied and ingenious types of lobbying."

Senator Charles E. Potter (R., Mich.) said, "almost everyone I know has been contacted and urged to contact me."

And Senator John O. Pastore (D., R. I.), during debate waved toward the Senate galleries and exclaimed, "Why, this chamber is loaded with lobbyists."

President Cognetta Elected on Community Chest

At the annual meeting of the Community Chest held at Hotel Van Curler on February 16, President Cognetta was elected to the Board of Directors.

Other labor representatives elected to the Board were: A Barbieri of the Steelworkers and R. Carmichael of the Federation of Labor.

Cognetta has been a member of the Chest's Budget Committee in the past.

Challenges

This year's Washington Birthday conference of the American Labor Education Service will be devoted to discussion of the educational challenges and opportunities arising out of merger of the AFL and CIO. Speakers will include David L. Cole, labor arbitrator; William H. Davis, former chairman of the War Labor Board; Ben Segal, Trade Union Consultant Fund for the Republic and numerous labor officials.

W Fires All 47 Strikers At Columbus Found Guilty

As this issue of the IUE News was going to press, word came from Columbus, Ohio, that Westinghouse Plant Manager E. L. Smith had fired all 47 Local-746 members found guilty of violating a restraining order.

The company's arrogant and high-handed action was immediately blasted by Local 746 President Charles Clark, who is in Pittsburgh at negotiations.

Clark said:

"The company's brutal action is another shocking example of the length it is willing to go in its strike-breaking campaign.

"It is an action revolting not only to every Westinghouse employe but to our entire community. We are at the bargaining table and we do not intend to bargain away the jobs and livelihood of our people and their families. We are resolved that the company is not going to discharge these people.

"Their jobs will be protected by any strike settlement agreement made with Westinghouse.

"If the company gets away with

this brutal action, it will be encouraged to fire any workers, any time, on any trumped up excuse." Union attorney Dave Clayman said, "We are amazed by the complete cynicism of the employer in discharging the people held guilty of contempt.

"It is obvious that every move of the company is based upon a calculated pattern of taking advantage of the turn of events in its efforts to break the strike of its employes.

"The company during the contempt proceedings refused to state publicly what its intentions were in regard to these people charged with contempt, although it is crystal clear now that it intended at all times to discharge them."

(It was recalled that at the time of the contempt hearings a week ago that Plant Manager Smith, on the witness stand, stated that he had "no plans" at that time to fire the strikers.)

"The union wishes to emphasize that the court found these persons guilty of violating a restraining order, not of committing crimes."

Runaway From IUE Is Futile

Another election victory has been racked up in a "runaway shop."

This time the shop left Lynn, Mass., where workers were protected by an IUE Local 257 contract, and moved to Concord, New Hampshire.

In Concord the J. C. Pitman & Sons company which makes 'Friorators' was paying from 30 to 50 cents an hour less than in Lynn. This, naturally, resulted in NLRB election vote of:

IUE 16

No union 9

The company screamed and hollered, protested to Washington. The election took place on August 12. It was February 1 before the NLRB in Washington cleared away all challenges and certified IUE as the bargaining agent.

Just four days before Christmas in 1951 the company let all its employes go and moved to Concord. There it set up rates 30 to 50 cents below its Lynn scales. For instance, in Concord it gave non-union employes 6 holidays instead of 9; until recently paid welders \$1.35 as contrasted to the \$1.79 an hour plus bonus it paid in Lynn in 1951.

Only 90 miles from Lynn and its old Amalgamated Local 257 contract, the company bloomed forth in all its anti-union glory until the IUE knocked on its gates once again.

This time the firm fired five pro-union members in the IUE's first organizing drive. After appeal to the NLRB the company had to pay the five \$1,900 in back pay. It is obvious that the outfit which makes deep-fat fryers still was determined to continue its reckless course.

But union-busting and wage-cutting doesn't pay off in the end as the company has found out.

Active in the campaign were Local 257 Business Agent John Nocella (who used to work for the company) and IUE International Representative Angelo Colella.

Nocella is currently helping to set up the local and to begin negotiations.

Utah-Wyoming Mergers

Fred Peiper, AFL-CIO regional director, has announced that plans for merger are going ahead rapidly in Utah and Wyoming. Peiper believes that merger will be worked out within three or four months.

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS Regularly!

Bldg. 273: R. Salvino and W. Noone in Shop Steward B. Peterson's group protest violation of Contract, Article V-4-(b)(4). When on a regularly assigned shift beginning at 7:00 p.m., they have been assigned to work several times on Saturday starting at 3:30 p.m. Union demands proper payment according to contract and retroactive adjustment.

Bldg. 273: Glen Rose protests continued discrimination being shown against him to the point now of being issued a poor progress report for work which he had not even done. Union demands management correct this situation.

Bldg. 16: Group under Shop Steward R. Hackebiel protest excess amount of unplanned work and supervision's change in method of payment for such work. Union demands past practice be adhered to and that the group maintain their earnings.

Shop Stewards to Receive Certificate

All the Shop Stewards who attended the Shop Stewards School for 1956 will receive a "Certificate of Merit" that will confirm their attendance.

The instruction given during the sessions included the interpretation of the 1955-60 Contract between the G.E. Company and the International Union of Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers and its affiliated G.E. Locals; also Constitutional and Union procedures.

In cases where Shop Stewards did not attend their scheduled classes because they attended last year's school or previous schools, they are not entitled to the certificate because they lack the benefit of instruction on the new provisions that are in the current contract.

IUE Local 301 Files Compliance Data

The non-Communist affidavits of all IUE Local 301 officers and a financial statement as required by Taft-Hartley have been forwarded to the National Labor Relations Board this month.

The financial statement follows:
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS, AFL-CIO, LOCAL 301

Financial Report for Year

From January 1 to December 31, 1955

INCOME	
Dues, Initiations and Miscellaneous	\$288,914.55
LESS FIXED EXPENSES	
National Per Capita	\$149,504.00
District Per Capita	22,341.95
State CIO Per Capita	2,978.10
Area Council Per Capita	1,009.22
Cost of Check-Off	1,875.68
	\$177,708.95
	\$211,205.60
INCOME AVAILABLE FOR ADMINISTRATION	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
Lost time	\$ 86,550.32
Grievance department	32,645.12
Business Office	19,153.38
Headquarters	19,543.26
Compensation service	13,184.67
Local 301 Newspaper	9,742.80
Payroll taxes	5,731.53
Insurances	3,192.28
Pension Plan	20,293.10
Conferences and Conventions	2,918.83
Donations	1,285.22
	\$214,240.51
DEFICIT	
Totals Assets as of December 31, 1955	\$ 3,034.91
Building and Defense Fund	\$179,793.70
General fund surplus	10,766.44
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$190,560.14