

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A.

Vol. 8 - No. 5

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

February 17, 1950

## Give Workers Check-off Funds, UE Asks

### 301 Delegation At NLRB Hearing

A busload of rank-and-file Local 301 members was to go to New York City yesterday (Thursday) to ask that the Taft-Hartley National Labor Relations Board schedule a speedy GE election. They were to appear at the NLRB hearing there.

Money to send the delegation was contributed by workers in the shops. The people to go were picked by the groups that gave the money.

#### To Testify for 301

The long and drawn out hearing was to take up the question of the bargaining unit at the Schenectady plant Wednesday and yesterday. The 301 Executive Board sent three men to testify for the union, against efforts to break up the present bargaining unit into craft groups.

The International Association of Machinists has filed a petition to represent a group and so have the AFL Glassblowers and the AFL Teamsters. Board Member Anthony Villano was to oppose the Glassblowers' claims; Board member Anthony Esposito was to testify against the IAM claims and Robert Jacobsen of Building 227 against the Teamsters.

#### GE and IUE Stalling

Since the start of the hearing several weeks ago GE and the "Imitation UE" have delayed and stalled proceedings by raising needless disputes about changes they want to make in the present bargaining units. They also have presented lengthy testimony on even the smallest points and their lawyers have dragged out the hearing by long cross-examinations.

On Feb. 12, the national UE urged that a consent election be arranged for Feb. 20 at all GE plants. Local 301 has repeatedly asked the Taft-Hartley Board for a speedy election in Schenectady.

**UNITE TO SUPPORT  
UE CONTRACT DEMANDS**

### Carey Tries Another Secret Deal

February 7, 1950

Dear Mr. Carey:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 24 to Mr. Wilson and of the 26th to me. This will also assure you that we have in mind your previous communications on the same subjects.

Both Mr. Wilson and I are surprised at one of the misstatements you make in an area where you must know the truth. I did not refuse to meet with you, as you claim in your letter. I did refuse the "off-the-record" meeting you requested by phone. I told you then—and Mr. Wilson confirmed it by letter a few days later on November 28—that I would meet with you any

Once again James B. Carey is caught red-handed in his efforts to make back-door deals with GE at the expense of the workers.

Above is reproduced part of L. R. Boulware's letter to Carey, telling of Carey's request for an "off-the-record" (meaning secret) meeting with Charles E. Wilson, GE president.

Carey is so deep in company unionism that it is the only way he knows how to operate. Even GE is embarrassed by it. To save its own face, GE is obliged to rebuff his cruder efforts, for fear that the GE-"Imitation UE" teamwork will be too obvious.

In advance of the UE convention in 1948, Carey spoke to GE top executives and requested help in disrupting UE.

While repelling Carey's crude attempts at deals, GE still helps out his IUE, by asking for a Labor Board election and then stalling the hearings, and by tying up the UE's dues check-off money.

### Tonawanda Rem-Rand Vote Set for Feb. 28

A consent Labor Board election has been set for Feb. 28 at the two Tonawanda, N. Y. plants of the Remington-Rand Corporation. UE applied for the election immediately after winning the Benton Harbor, Mich. plant by 240 to 27.

This company has been fighting UE viciously, but strangely enough it did not block a consent election. Apparently it knew UE would win there sooner or later anyway. The details were worked out in a conference Tuesday.

An election could have been held long before now in GE if the com-

### 301 Membership To Meet Tuesday

Proposals for the 1950 GE contract, recommended by the shop stewards' meeting last week, will be voted on by the 301 membership meeting Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the union hall.

There will be a report on the injunctions affecting 301 dues and funds.

The second shift members will meet at 12:45 a.m., after they have finished Monday night's second shift. The first and third shift members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Company and IUE had agreed to UE's consent election proposal.

### IUE Lawyer Turns Down UE Proposal

UE proposed in Federal Court in New York City last week that the General Electric Company pay back to the individual workers the approximately \$300,000 of UE check-off funds tied up in court.

This suggestion by David Scribner, national UE attorney, caught the "Imitation UE" flatfooted. Even the General Electric Company, which has been playing ball from the start with IUE in holding up UE money, had to agree in court to the proposal. But the IUE attorney refused to agree that the money should be paid back to the members.

#### Money Belongs to UE Locals

Scribner pointed out that the money belongs to the UE locals. But rather than wait for the outcome of long and involved court proceedings, he said, the union asked that the simple step be taken of returning the money to the individuals. The individuals could then do what they want with it.

GE withheld November and December check-off money on the grounds it was in doubt what union it belonged to. It asked Federal Court to decide.

#### IUE Got Injunction

Later it honored new check-off forms at Schenectady and some other plants. But IUE obtained an injunction to hold up the February check-off money too. The IUE based its request for an injunction on the fact that GE went to court in the first place to ask what to do.

Federal Judge John C. Knox adjourned the case last week to await a reconsideration by IUE of its refusal to go along with the returning of the money to the individuals. Nothing further had been heard from the IUE attorneys by the time this week's EU News went to press.



## Why IUE Wants Speed In General Motors Vote

The labor board election in the General Motors Electrical Division plants will be held Feb. 28. About 22,000 workers are involved in the five plants. Before the Carey raid, 16,000 of these were dues-paying union members.

The Imitation UE has been trying to have this election fast while stalling the Westinghouse and GE elections. The Taft-Hartley NLRB arranged this for Carey, despite the fact that the GM contract expires a month later than the other two.

Carey wants the GM Electrical election first, because it is the only major group under UE contract where the company union forces have a real foothold. This foothold is threatened by workers trying to break through the company union set-up.

The main two electrical plants are in Dayton, Ohio, and in both plants company union leaders have been entrenched for years. These forces were the core of the "Dayton Caucus" held last summer in the unsuccessful effort to disrupt the 1949 UE Convention.

Also, because the automobile part of GM is the main part of the company, the influence of the CIO Auto Workers is strong there. It is a foregone conclusion that any GM plant won by the "Imitation UE" will be turned over before long to the Auto Workers, with the blessings of the company.

It is very possible that the GM electrical workers may break through the company union influence. But Carey's main hope of getting some propaganda newspaper headlines and of winning anything rests on getting a GM vote fast.

Any loss which UE may suffer in GM plants will be offset several times over by the 50,000 who voluntarily joined UE through the Farm Equipment union.

## Raise for 1,500

In a contract reopening, UE has won a six cents an hour wage increase for 1,500 workers of Becton-Dickinson and Company, Rutherford, N. J.

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND  
MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA  
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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## Would You Want This Here?

**AGREEMENT**  
CARNegie-ILLINOIS STEEL CORPORATION  
UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA CIO

**Determination of Seniority**  
1. Seniority shall be based on continuous service in the following order:  
a. physical fitness.  
b. continuous service.

**Physical Fitness**  
2. Discharge or release after lay-off of an employee shall be based on the following factors as listed below:  
a. physical fitness.  
b. continuous service.

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a. physical fitness.  
b. continuous service.

James B. Carey and the CIO officials trying to raid UE are daring to attack UE's bargaining record, with phony claims and figures. But look at these clauses from Steel Workers' contracts, reproduced in their exact form! They limit the number of shop stewards to one for every 500 workers. They give the company a free hand to revise incentives and increase speed-up. And they let the company scrap seniority by permitting "physical fitness" and "ability" to be the basis of layoffs and rehiring.

## Lame Excuse

In last week's "Works News", GE's L. R. Boulware tried to explain why GE filed petitions with the NLRB. He tried to show it was not done to help out the "Imitation UE."

Boulware claimed GE filed to "get the earliest possible elections", and to avoid "confusion" while "old and new unions sought employee signatures."

That's a pretty thin "explanation" because the effect of the GE petitions has been just the opposite of what Boulware said GE wanted. It has opened the way for delays and for the present campaign of confusion by the IUE. If GE had not filed, then the IUE could not have qualified for an election in most plants, including Schenectady.

GE used the pending election to deny the workers any contract improvement in 1949. It is using it to delay 1950 negotiations.

## Carey Covers Up For GE on Profits

James B. Carey's deep-down company unionism shows even when he is shouting his loudest to pretend to be attacking the company.

His letter to Congressmen goes into page after page of attacks on GE as "cooperating with Communists." That is so ridiculous that GE can afford to laugh it off.

But when it comes to GE's profits, about which the company is really sensitive, then the same Carey letter covers up for GE by picturing GE's profits as about one-quarter what they really are.

Carey's letter states that GE's profits after taxes "rose from 3.5% in 1943 to 5.7% in 1946, to 7.6% in 1947, and 8.1% in 1948."

The fact is, as UE has brought out repeatedly, that GE's rate of profit after taxes was 26.8% for 1947 and 39.5% for 1948.

## Carey Is Counting On New Smear of UE

On the basis of James B. Carey's past performances, it's practically a safe bet that he will pull political strings to stage some kind of sensational attack on the UE leadership just before the Taft-Hartley Labor Board election at General Electric plants.

Carey knows the overwhelming majority of GE workers will vote for UE and repudiate the "Imitation UE." That's the reason he is ducking an election. And that's the reason that when the election finally takes place he won't dare face a vote without front-page headlines smearing UE leaders.

At the "Imitation UE" convention Carey boasted about his influence in high places. Look how his political friends have helped him in the past. The Kerston Committee came to Schenectady to smear Local 301 in 1948 before the National UE convention and with obvious intention also of influencing the 301 election of officers. The Un-American Committee went through its act of investigating the Westinghouse local at Pittsburgh just before the election of delegates to the UE convention in 1949.

When the 301 members last month signed 10,613 new check-off cards, Carey called on his pals in Congress for some more watch-hunts to help him out. So those old familiar head-lines ought to be appearing again soon.

## Carey Stoozes Poke Into Books of 301

An extra edition of the EU News was to be distributed yesterday reporting on the contempt-of-court case brought by "Imitation UE" against Local 301 in connection with union expenditures. Therefore today's issue of the paper will not repeat the details.

IUE attorneys and leaders have made the untrue charges that 301 has gone beyond the \$3,500 weekly limit of expenditures set by Supreme Court Justice John Alexander. The union has not spent more than the amount allowed by the court. The 301 books are audited regularly by certified public accountants.

The "Imitation UE" brought the charges to try to find some excuse for tying up the union's funds. They have used the charges to have a character like John Duffy examine 301 records. Duffy was expelled by UE Local 618 in November 1948. The trial report stated that he used \$1,200 of Local 618 funds for outside activities without an accounting.

## Committees for 1950

Standing committees of Local 301 for 1950, appointed by the Executive Board and approved unanimously by the shop stewards' meeting last week are as follows:

**Appeals committee:** President William J. Kelly, Chief Shop Steward James Cognetta, Executive Board Member Helen Quirini, Shop Steward William Hodges who is former vice-president of 301, and two members of the Executive Board.

**Activities committee:** Shop Steward Edward J. La Bombard, Jr., Building 97; Gordon Belgrave, Bldg. 17; Shop Steward Manuel Fernandez, 269; Louis Durrer, 85; Emil Radosevich, office manager; and Michael De Celli, 273.

The Executive Board will again function as the Legislative Committee.

**Grievance committee:** President Kelly, Recording Secretary John Green, Business Agent Leo Jandrea, or an assistant, the Executive Board member involved in the grievance, and two Executive Board members from a panel of four Board members to serve each month.

**Constitution committee:** Shop Steward Frank Emspak, Bldg. 46; Shop Steward George Walker, 73; Shop Steward Roy Lash, 273; Anthony Campriello, 52; Stanley Aldhous, 269 and Shop Steward Joseph Ashenback, 273 second shift.

**Finance committee:** Treasurer Henry Kaminski and Executive Board Members Albert E. Davis, Joseph Kelly and Rossiter Light-hall.

**Editorial committee:** Shop Steward Mary McCarlin, Bldg. 28; Trustee and Shop Steward Frank D'Amico, 53; Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent; Troy Snipes, 46; Adam Kolasienski, K-1; Shop Steward George Quick, 16, second shift; Shop Steward George Roode, 273 second shift, and Robert Armstrong, 40.

**House committee:** Shop Steward Joseph Hills, Bldg. 89, and Miles Moon, 85.

**Transportation committee:** Vice-President Joseph Mangino, Fred Pacelli, the second shift at large member of the Executive Committee, Assistant Recording Secretary Virginia Murphy and Shop Steward Peter Pisano, Bldg. 77.

The committee on unemployment will be named later in consultation with an unemployed workers' meeting to be called by Robert Northrop, now chairman of the committee.

## Lining Up for Duty as 301 Shop Stewards



These shop stewards taking the oath of office are (not from left to right): B. Ten Have, Building 12; Stanley Dule, Bldg. 14; Sidney Friedlander, Edmund Calleo, Dominick Tiscione, Harold Rollins, Adam Glover; Russell Somers; and Richard E. Boehm, Bldg. 17; Peter O'Neil, Bldg. 19; Gertrude Bruch, Arthur Bertini, Anthony Rainone, Victor Bikowitz, Ida Prahl and Ernest L. Costanzo, Bldg. 68; William Hodges, Bldg. 72; Robert Jacobsen and Elmer E. Boyce, Bldg. 84; Joseph S. Cassaro, Bldg. 227; and Carmen Chiallari, Bldg. 273. At the extreme left the 301 guide, Floyd Warner, is shown administering the oath.

## Caught in the Act

The Schenectady "Imitation UE" leaflet Tuesday showed a picture of Irving Abramson, CIO attorney, addressing an IUE meeting in this city.

The Carey boys don't mention that Abramson was also photographed recently crashing the UE Local 475 picket line at Krischer Metal Company, Brooklyn. The picture was made after he left a secret conference with the company. Abramson and IUE leaders tried to herd scabs to break the strike, but UE won the strike and a contract with an eight-cent an hour package increase.

## Another IUE Whopper

Falshoods make up the whole stock-in-trade of the Carey propaganda, so that if UE tried to answer them all the union would get off the track of the members' shop problems. Once in a while, particularly brazen untruth needs to be pointed out, to show what IUE statements amount to.

Typical is the story, repeated in one Carey statement after another and again in the leaflet handed out last Tuesday, that Charles E. Wilson once told the War Labor Board that James Matles and Julius Emspak are "easy to deal with," and UE is "like having a company union."

IUE could not tell you when Wilson said this, because he never said it, or anything like it. Just another IUE fabrication.

WEAR YOUR UE BUTTON

## 'Buzzer System' at Sperry Has IUE Blessing

The "Imitation UE" leaders at the Sperry Gyroscope Company, Long Island City, have allowed a "buzzer system" to be imposed on the workers.

IUE has been bragging about the Sperry contract. What the record at Sperry proves is that IUE tears down what the workers gain through UE.

The "buzzer system" was first introduced in one small department with the consent of IUE officers. A few weeks ago it was extended to 1,500 workers in the assembly area, the biggest division in the plant.

Now workers are not permitted to lay down their tools, roll down their sleeves or leave their benches until the buzzer sounds, precisely 30 seconds before quitting time. Warning slips have been given workers for "not waiting for the buzzer."

Stoozes for Company  
Sperry also introduced a new system of removing time cards from the rack when a worker is even one minute late. The tardy worker has to see his foreman personally to recover the time card.

The stewards' council voted Dec. 13 that the workers should protest by refusing to punch in Dec. 15. Then Paul Jennings, the IUE president at Sperry, flew back from out-of-town to have the IUE executive board over-rule the stewards.

The morning of Dec. 15 the IUE leaders stood by the time card racks ordering workers to punch in!  
Lower Wages Under IUE  
The IUE leadership has allowed the company to lower the average wage in the plant. After the war Sperry laid off more than 10,000 workers. In 1949 the company hired 1,500 new people to do the work of "A" men, but paid them at lower classifications. The group

is about one third of the entire working force.

Another sell-out concerned some 60 wage inequities affecting 1,500 workers. In the contract settlement of last June the company agreed to settle these disputes by negotiations. But the company union IUE threw out nearly half the cases before the negotiating started. They settled the others without giving the workers a chance to ratify or reject the settlements.

## Gains Won by UE

Before the Carey group obtained control of Local 450 in 1948, big gains had been secured for the workers under UE leadership. In addition to wage increases, UE obtained for the Sperry workers nine paid holidays, two weeks vacation for 10 months service, a week's sick leave, accident, life and sickness insurance, 15 percent second and third shift bonus, and severance pay for laid-off employees. Now the Carey group is issuing leaflets claiming credit for what UE did.

Joseph Dermody, UE international representative and secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE, headed the organizing drive at Sperry in 1942 and later headed the job evaluation committee. The UE job evaluation program resulted in wage increases in 1945 of 50½ cents an hour, and \$15 million back pay for the Sperry workers.



## 301 Board Demands GE Give Full Feb. 2 Pay

The entire 301 Executive Board met with Works Manager Lewis J. Male Tuesday and demanded that GE pay employees for the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 2.

In violation of the contract the company penalized UE members for leaving their shops to take check-off revocation cards personally to Building 41, and penalized shop stewards for taking cards for their groups.

Discussion with Male revealed that the GE legal department is running the show, as far as the entire problem connected with the revocations is concerned. Male refused to pay the workers the money illegally withheld from them by the company's action in sending them home and in removing their clock cards.

### 301 to Ask Arbitration

Local 301 will take the case to the New York level and will request arbitration. Business Agent Leo Jandreau asked Male whether he would have any personal objection to arbitration. Male said he couldn't answer the question.

The Executive Board told Male GE had violated the contract by intimidation and coercion, by a lock-out, by taking disciplinary measures without a week's notice and by interfering with shop stewards' duties in the course of their union activities.

Jandreau contrasted the company's crack-down on UE members with the assistance and favors granted to the "imitation UE." He pointed out how GE helped IUE by filing for a Labor Board election, by holding up check-off money and by stalling the election hearing.

### Different Treatment for IUE

Carey stooges were allowed to circulate freely throughout the plant with IUE applications and with check-off revocation notices last December. GE accepted revocations from IUE, although handed in contrary to the contract, and rushed to deduct the money from the January check-off. But it refused to agree that UE could hand in revocations for the March check-off without 30 days' notice. That's the reason arrangements had to be rushed so to hand in the revocations by noon, Feb. 2.

Male told the Board that according to the GE legal department 301 didn't meet the deadline. GE lawyers don't want to count

## Union Members Get Help on Income Tax



Saturday morning scene at 301 hall where union members get free assistance in filling out federal and state income tax returns. The tax experts at the left of the table are, from front to back, William Templeton, assistant to the business agent; Emil (Rudy) Radosevich, office manager; Rudy Ellis, and Board Member Sidney Friedlander.

## Here's UE Seniority in Practice; Contrast It with Auto and Steel

Supervision in the Mica division bowed to the UE contract in Building 29 recently. It laid off the shortest service man out of a miscellaneous molding group and kept the remaining three with the most service.

The division had tried to keep the man on in violation of seniority, on the ground that he was a "key" man and the job could not run without him. As proof they pointed to his slightly higher piece work sharing rate. At first the division resisted when Bldg.

the date of delivery in the 30 days.

Piece workers will be paid for all their Feb. 2 work, according to Male, as their earnings are computed at the end of a week. He refused to make up pay losses to any day workers, however, even those who worked Thursday afternoon with permission or on orders of their foremen. Male suggested that 301 give him the names of such foremen and "we'll handle them."

The Board protested also against penalizing workers who handed in their revocations by refusing to give them overtime work on Saturday. Male said he'd instructed supervision not to withhold overtime work from them a second Saturday.

Jandreau told him the discrimination had continued and that maybe there won't be any overtime work performed at all at the plant.

41 told them they were wrong, but finally the lay-off was made in accordance with the contract.

If this situation had come up under the CIO Auto Workers' contract at Chrysler, the union would have been licked hands down, because the seniority clause there says "The Union recognizes the need for exceptional employees . . . at times working forces are reduced."

Seniority would have taken an even clearer licking if this situation had come up under the major United Steelworker contracts. For these contracts provide that length of service is the determining factor only where "ability to perform work" and "physical fitness" are "relatively equal."

And these are the people who come to town to promise GE workers stronger seniority than we have now!

### Holiday Pay Won

UE Local 255 at the Pittsfield GE plant recently forced the company to give Christmas holiday pay to five girls who had been taken back to work after a long layoff.

ATTEND THE UNION MEETINGS

## GE Co. Won't Stop Stalling T-H Election

The General Electric Company last week took over 350 words to say "No" to UE's telegram asking that it withdraw its request for carving up collective bargaining units.

Joseph Dermody, UE international representative and secretary of the GE Conference Board of UE, asked that GE agree to go into a Taft-Hartley Labor Board election at once on the basis of existing UE units. He charged GE with assisting IUE by stalling the election hearings.

Eleven days later George H. Pfeif replied that "the company has made every attempt to expedite early NLRB elections." He claimed that "neither the UE nor the IUE is willing to make any agreement for fear of criticism from the other," and that "all efforts of the company to effect compromises have received no consideration." And he added that "there is no evidence we can see that either of you is actually in very much of a hurry."

Dermody replied with a reminder that at a conference on Jan. 13 UE had presented to GE and the IUE a signed agreement for an election at GE plants Feb. 10 under existing bargaining units. But the IUE and Pfeif refused to sign.

"GE bailed out the company-union IUE by petitioning for elections in 52 plant locations when the IUE was unable to show evidence of membership," Dermody stated to Pfeif.

He pointed out the GE and IUE have delayed the NLRB hearings for weeks "by tossing the ball back and forth between you."

"You also know that the company could stop this farce by withdrawing its demands for unit changes in plants not agreed upon," he said.

### Did You Know?

GE approvingly printed in the Works News in 1947 this statement by Emil Rieve, president of the CIO Textile Workers:

"The current barrage of propaganda to the contrary, labor is generally disposed to cooperate with management in achieving full production."

His own way of cooperation been to give the textile company a free hand to impose speed-ups. And for three straight years he hasn't asked for a pay raise for the Textile Workers.

U. S. News - Feb. 17, 1950

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# GE Contract Must Be Maintained and Improved after Apr. 1