A meeting Monday between UE 301 officers and top officials of the State Department of Labor resulted in reopening of the Unemployment Insurance Division's finding that workers here laid-off following the Steamfitters' strike must wait seven weeks before being eligible for

The union was represented Mon-

day by William J. Kelly, president

Joseph A. Mangino, vice-president

John P. Green, recording secretary

Henry Kaminski, treasurer, and

Marshall Perlin, counsel. Leo Jan-

dreau was at a negotiating com-

Three Previous Conferences

representatives had met once with

the Schenectady office of unem-

ployment division, and twice with

laid-off Turbine and Motor and

Generator workers must wait sev-

en weeks under the law. Corsi

agreed Monday that this ruling

was not final, and would be recon

sidered through the fact-finding.

The 301 representatives pointed

out that most of the laid-off work-

ers had plenty of work to do, but

that the company used the strike

as an excuse for moving up the an-

nual shutdown, and laid thousands

off to suit its own production plans.

Kelly also told Corsi that the Di-

vision's seven-week ruling was an

encouragement to strikes, because

if people were forced to go without

benefits, they might well feel that

they might just as well set up

nicket lines for their own contract

demands.

The division had ruled that the

state officials of the division.

Before Monday's meeting, union

mittee meeting in New York.

Instead, it was agreed that the Unemployment Insurance Division would conduct an informal factfinding investigation as to the real reason for the lay-offs. UE 301 contended that for most of the men laid-off, the strike was not the real reason, but only a convenient excuse for GE to move up its annual shutdown.

The fact-finding was to have been done with representatives of UE 301 and the General Electric Company. But GE refused to meet.

As a result, a fact-finding meeting was scheduled to be held here yesterday, with the state division and the union present.

GE's Excuse Not to Meet

In refusing to meet, GE hid behind two thin excuses, namely that in its lay-off notices it had already stated its "position" that the strike was the reason, and that UE was not yet formally certified by the NLRB.

The meeting Monday was with Edward A. Corsi, industrial commissioner-and head of the State Labor Department, M. O. Loysen, director of the unemployment insurance division, and Gerald Heckler, Albany district head of the di-Heckler and the general counsel to the division were to meet UE representatives in yesterday's fact-finding session.

Toolmakers Press Run-off Drive

The UE committee representative of the various tool rooms is pressing its campaign for a big UE 301 majority in the expected toolmakers' run-off election with the International Association of

The NLRB has held up any decision on whether or not a run-off is necessary, and when, because of the phony protest by the IUE-CIO against the UE victories here and in Erie. The latest word was that the NLRB was still "investigating" the protests.

The toolmakers' campaign for UE has been spurred by the small concession made by the company in this week's one-step raise in job rates. The toolmakers recognize that it resulted from joint pressure of the principal crafts on the company through UE 301.

Urgent Call for Blood

Blood donors are needed urgently for the wife of Paul Hacko, Bldg. 273, who is seriously ill at Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville. She has received many transfusions. In addition to replacing the blood already given, there is a specific need for "O Positive" type blood for Mrs. Hacko. Donations can be made either at the hospital in Gloversville or at Amsterdam City Hospital. Transportation arrangements will be made for any volunteers who call the union office.

SEE MY RICH MY DOUGH! DISORGANIZALO DRIVE

Membership to Act On Reinstatement Plan

An executive board recommendation on enrollment of new members and reinstatement of delin quent members will come before the membership meeting next week (after midnight Monday and 7:30 n.m. Tuesday).

The recommendation provides

The members who withheld navment when dues collection by stewards started, because they were waiting for the outcome of the election, will be required to pay dues beginning with April.

All members who dropped out or became delinquent at any other time also will be required to pay dues beginning with April 1950.

At the discretion of shop stewards, the back dues could be paid up in monthly instalments of \$1.50.

Applicants who never belonged to UE may join without payment of initiation fee up to August 1. Veterans who have not worked more than 90 days since return from military duty will continue to be exempt from the initiation fee.

The board already has reconmended that persons expelled by the membership for IUE activity be barred from reinstatement.

The recommendations on reinstatement were made by a committee consisting of Board Members Joseph Kelly, chairman, Harold Simpson, secretary, Walter Kniffen, William Christman, Ted Wheeler, and Dewey Brashear.

An organizing drive to unite all Schenectady GE workers behind the contract demands is called for by the board recommendations.

Since the NLRB vote there has been a considerable increase in dues payments, starting with April, and a rush of May payments by members who had paid for April.

Attention Turbine, Motor And Generator Workers

Any member on temporary layoff who has been involved in a workmen's compensation case may have certain rights as the result of the lay-off, namely:

A worker with an open case, will ? partial disability;

Or a worker whose case has been closed without a lump sum award, and who has a permanent partial disability,

should call at the union office. He may be entitled to some payment during the lay-off.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 8, No. 23

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

June 23, 1950

GE Attacks Seniority and Piece Work Guarantees

301 Protests GE Disability Plan

UE 301 officers were scheduled to meet yesterday with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, to present the membership's protests against the company's disability benefit plan, to take effect July 1 under the New York State Disability Benefits Law.

The demand that the plan bechanged was voted unanimously by both shift meetings (Monday and Tuesday nights), after considerable discussion. Many speakers reported shop sentiment was strongly against the plan and against proposed changes in Mua tual Benefit.

Objectionable Limitations

Most serious objection is the det that under the plan a worker with an injury or illness connected with his work could collect Workmen's Compensation but not disability pay. Up to now, under Mutual Benefit, such a worker could collect Workmen's Compensation and also MBA disability pay of \$26 a week up to 13

Another serious objection is that combined payments by most workers for both the new plan and the proposed MBA set-up covering employee and dependents will total \$1.30 a week to MBA and company, as against \$1.20 to MBA up-

\$30 a Week-Maybe!

For ordinary sickness and accident not caused by the worker's job, the amount of disability benefits under the company's plan goes to a top of \$30, for a 26week period, and most workers would receive the top. Under MBA the amount was \$26 for 13 weeks.

However, the amount of the weekly payment under the new in might be cut by as much as in fact, for a doctor's certificate, if the company insists on the weekly certificate which it can demand under the law. This was one of the issues to be discussed yesterday.

The company's new plan will be handled through the Metropolitan (Continued on page two)



"If you are a representative of the people, why don't you represent them?"

How GE Moves to Break Steamfitters' Strike;— It's Something for Toolmakers to Think About

Direct steps to break the steamfitters' strike were taken by the company this week, through new arrangements in the Turbine Division. The company this week began calling back many laid-off Turbine

The strike thus becomes a tragic AFL Building Trades. object lesson in the dangers and futility of craft union action by one small group separately from the rest of the plant workers.

The AFL Steamfitters' Local 128 has ignored so far UE 301's invitaton last week to make a joint fight on craft rates. This was the fourth time in two years that UE 301 made the offer.

Few steamfitters continue on the picketlines. Many steamfitters are working elsewhere. Some are reported to be working on construction jobs declared unfair by the

The company's strikebreaking action consisted of arrangements to ship turbines without final test. This carries a real future threat. to the jobs of steamfitters as well as some welders. The arrangements required getting some engineers and supervisors to do a little steamfitters' work - in other words, to do scab work.

The presence of UE, of course, has delayed the GE's strikebreaking action, because UE solidarity has kept rank and file workers from doing steamfitters' work. Without UE organization, the

Asks Changes To Weaken **UE Contract**

The General Electric Company wants to weaken the seniority and piece work guarantees of the contract as the price of reinstating the contract, before it even makes an offer on economic issues.

This was reported this week by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, member of the national negotiating committee. He also reported that the company was obviously trying to take advantage of the IUE-CIO split by playing off one union against another. George Pfeif, head management negotiator, said last week he wanted to delay stating GE's position on wages, hours, pensions ,etc., because he wanted to announce it at the same time to all 20 unions now in GE.

Action by 301 Meeting

In the light of Jandreau's report, the UE 301 membership meeting unanimously voted to demand full immediate reinstatement of the contract; and furthermore to unions in GE, including the IUE-CIO, not to accept anything less

(Continued on page two)

steamfitters' strike would have been broken long ago, just like other craft strikes in past years. UE members will of course continue to refuse to do any steamfitters'

For 12 years the Steamfitters won gains regularly through UE negotiations, while keeping their separate union and dues. Their last craft raise was the 10 cents won by UE for them and the elec-

The 5½-cent raise offered the Steamfitters by GE two weeks ago was a general craft raise offered by the company in plants all over the country, not because of the strike, but as the result of the steady pressure for three years by UE, led by UE 301.

IUE "Respectability" Doesn't Help Workers

In Westinghouse as well as GE, company spokesmen are taking advantage of the split created by the IUE-CIO.

The workers who were misled into voting for the IUE-CIO are learning fast that the "respectability" they looked for through that outfit has not earned for them the respect of their employ-

Of course both GE and Westinghouse are taking the same bargaining positions with both UE and IUE. But in the IUE plants they are finding it a lot easier to push the workers around.

Typical is the Syracuse GE situ-There the workers have a very real grievance - low wages and bad piece work conditions. Those conditions were permitted by the same leadership which finally took them into the IUE-CIO. So the IUE-CIO gives them the "help" of Martin Stanton, who in Schenectady- GE could not handle a simple grievance. Newspaper stories report that Syracuse GE workers were "ordered back to work." This is language of the AFL and CIO. In the UE, the members decide whether or not they go back.

In Westinghouse negotiations, the company has offered the inferior steel pension plan and a hospitalization plan which would cost the workers \$8 a month. In returnit wants to destroy the shop steward system and weaken seniority and piece work guarantees.

In Westinghouse plants where UE won, the workers have enforced their shop steward system and it is functioning. In IUE plants the company is resisting. In the Springfield, Mass., plant, which went IUE, a rank and file slowdown was taking place this week over the company's refusal to recognize the stewards.

All GE and Westinghouse workers necessarily are hurt by the split. But those who went "respectable IUE" suffer first and most.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA SCHENISCIADY OB LOCAL 801

06 2000 Published by Editorial Committee Mary McCartin, Chalrman Adam Kolasienski, Secretary Frank D'Amico George Quick Troy Snipes Georgo, Roode

Editorial Office ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS 301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y., Telephone 3-1386

301 Protests GE Disability Plan

Life Insurance Company. This fact raises another problem for the workers, namely how much red tape may be demanded before claims are paid.

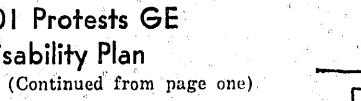
Two facts should be kept in mind on this matter:

- a) The state disability law is a very bad one, which UE opposed, pointing out that it was written for the benefit of the insurance companies. This gives the company the excuse for a bad plan. GE can say truthfully that its plan is better than required by the law.
- b) One of UE's demands in national GE negotiations is for a company-paid health insurance and hospitalization plan, such as UE has in many plants. Any such plan would take the place of both MBA and the new New York state plan. GE workers cannot negotiate on MBA, but they can fight for a good plan through UE contract

Here is a summary of company actions scheduled on the disability benefit issue:

- 1. Effective July 1, the company will deduct 1/2 of 1 per cent of the employee's weekly pay check, up to 30 cents, which means 30 cents for most employees. This is required by law. The company will not have to make further payments unless the fund gets too low, which is unlikely.
- 2. In case of illness or accident not caused by the job, benefits will start after the first week ranging from \$22.50 to \$30 a week, depending on normal earnings. Most workers will be at the \$30 level. Payments can continue up to 26 weeks for one illness.
- 3. On the company's recommendation, the MBA's General Committee will vote on a proposal to remove the disability benefits from MBA, and keep the surgery and hospitalization. For employees' own coverage dues would be cut from 55 cents to 30 cents a week. This means that total payments for employees' own coverage would be raised from 55 cents to MBA to 60 cents to MBA and GE direct.
- 4. The MBA also will act on a company proposal to raise the dues for dependents' coverage from 65 cents to 70 cents a week. This has nothing to do with the new disability law. It is based on the claim that dues for dependents' benefits are too low to maintain an adequate fund.

Have You Joined UE 301?





301 Presses GE on Seniority Violations

UE Local 301 has been pressing the company to straighten out violations of seniority which have developed since the contract expired. and which are slowly coming to

The company has finally admitted that there are short service toolmakers in the laboratories. while longer service men have difficulty getting placed. UE 301 is insisting on the right of laid-off toolmakers to bump in the laboratories as well as throughout the rest of the plant. When this paper went to press, Building 41 was still "studying" the question.

The Personnel department tried to prevent a laid-off punch press operator from exercising his seniority rights on a common labor job, but finally placed him this week. Laborers are still being hired. Laid-off members interested in such work should go to Bldg. 1, and if necessary come to the union

The union also is pressing a grievance over rehiring out seniority in Bldg. 29. The company claims it did this because some of the longer service girls were not qualified for this work.

Little League Tickets

Robert Finigan, Bldg. 273, cochairman of the grounds committee of the Schenectady Little League, advises that the donation tickets being sold for the league are to pay for maintenance of the field and future equipment. Initial equipment for the boy baseball players is being paid for by the sponsors. The 301 executive board has authorized the sale of the tickets in the shops.

BACK THE NEGOTIATIONS! PAY YOUR DUES TO YOUR SHOP STEWARD -DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED

GE Attacks Seniority, Piece Work Guarantees

(Continued from page one) good than the present contract as the basis for negotiation on ecc nomic issues. (In Jandreau's a sence to attend the national negotiating committee meeting, his report was given to the membership meeting by Victor Pasche, as-

When the bargaining resumed Wednesday, the UE committee told Pfeif that it would not accept any weakening of the seniority, piece work, or other provisions. Pfeif said the company would submit its proposed changes in contract language in writing on Thursday (yes-

Some of the language changes proposed by the company apparently were just to clear up a point or satisfy a lawyer. But the list of changes asked by the company included the following in ortant

- 1. Amend seniority to provide that before a worker can bump on a job outside the division, he may be required to take a lowerrated job in his division, within three wage steps. This would mean. for example, that a laid-off Class A toolmaker could be forced take a Class B job at 16% cents less an hour, instead of getting an A job in another division.
- 2. Change the last paragraph of Art. VIII, Section 5, Paragraph (d), which guarantees earnings upon change of method. While Pfeif hedged as to just what he wanted, it appeared clear that GE wants to use a change of method to cut earnings down to the AER instead of usual earnings.
- 3. Enable the company to order workers to work overtime, whether they like it or not.
- 4. End the compulsory arbitration provision and leave the company free to refuse to arbitrate an unsettled grievance.
- 5. Set time limits on the union's right to present grievances. At the same time-the company objected to discussion of grievances by shop committees with general foremen and superintendents, as proposed by UE.
- 6. Change the section allowing local negotiation of hourly job wednesday Pfeif had not said just what change he wanted.

10 Cent Package

UE-Local-932-won-a-package-increase of 10 cents an hour from the Ironite Company, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

GE Time-Studies Production Clerks

June 23, 1950

Need for UE contract coverage for factory office workers here was rought home recently when GE assigned efficiency experts to time production clerks in Building 269.

For a month two efficiency men looked over the shoulders of several clerks to see how long it took them to write out orders, and followed them around to see how long it took them to locate materials or do other tasks. Reports were made on how each individual could be speeded-up.

Developments like this have created keen interest in the UE organizing campaign among office factory workers, which opened last week. Application cards have started to come in from various parts of the plant.

A representative group of badge clerks met Sunday at 301 hall and voted to organize under UE. William Templeton, assistant to Business Agent Leo Jandreau, met wth

Political Activity Of Kriss and Pals

Newspaper reports of a meeting Ast week of the Schenectady County Young Democratic Club contained reminders of the close tie-up between the IUE disrupters here and the City Hall faction of the Democratic party.

Frank Kriss, so-called field representative of the IUE here, was elected a delegate to the annual Political Institute of the Youth Division, New York State Democratic Committee. This institute, at which Mayor Owen M. Begley was a speaker, endorsed for governor James A. Farley, reactionary Democrat who turned against Franklin D. Roosevelt and his pro-

Also mentioned in connection with the Young Democrats' meeting were Mrs. John Warren and John Shambo, John Warren, expelled from UE 301, is so-called vice-president of the IUE here John Shambo was expelled from UE 301.

"Section Night" Parties

There will be a "Section Night" arty tonight (Friday) at 301 hall for Buildings 52, 60, 64 and 66. Mario Bagnato is the Executive Board member for the buildings. Tickets are 35 cents.

Next-Friday, June 30, members in Bldg. 85 will have a "Section Night", with tickets 50 cents. Miles Moon is Board member.



non-communist- Affidavits?

301 Votes to Join in Sponsoring "Ad" Against Mundt-Nixon-Ferguson Bills

The UE Local 301 membership meeting this week voted to join a group of civic leaders in sponsoring an advertisement in Schenectady newspapers against the Mundt-Nixon-Ferguson bills.

Sponsors of the advertisement include Professor Arthur Davis and Professor Edward Marz, both Union College; Dr. Walter Gross, dentist, and the following clergymen, the Rev. J. H. Steinkraus, the Rev. B. M. Heald, the Rev. L. C. Cox, and the Rev. A. G. Adriance. A copy of the advertisement was sent to the union with the letter from sponsors.

The advertisement points out that while the Mundt-Nixon-Ferguson bills are supposedly aimed at Communists, "their real effect will be to undermine everybody's right of free speech, free thought, peaceful political action and assembly."

The bills authorize the Attorney General and a three-man Presidential Commission to label any organization, trade union or other group as a Communist political organization or Communist front organization and to put their membership on a nation-wide "black list". A strike of a fight for higher wages could be used as an excuse for labeling an organization.

The bills provide imprisonment

up to 10 years and a fine up to \$10,000 for supporting any cause which the attorney general believes to any substantial extent would weaken the government and free enterprise system. Such things as opposing the Un-American Activities Committee, striking for higher wages, or pressing for equal rights for the Negro people could be considered evidence for criminal prosecution.

Organizations on record against the Mundt-Nixon-Ferguson bills include: the AFL, the CIO, Railroad-Trainmen, United Steelworkers, UE, Painters Union, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, United Auto Workers, United Rubber Workers, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers), Episcopal League for Social Action, Baptist Ministers Conference, Américans for Democratic Action Jewish War Veterans, National Maritime Union, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, American Civil Liberties Union, American Jewish Congress, and the National Council of Jewish Women,

Organizing Drive And Reinstatements

Provisions for reinstatement of members were adopted by the UE-301 membership meeting this week and plans made for an organizing drive to unite Schenectady GE workers solidly behind the contract negotiations.

Recommendations of the Executive Board on reinstatement procedure were approved as follows:

All members who dropped out for any reason must pay back dues beginning with April, 1950. This provision includes:

Members who refused to sign the check-off authorization in 1948.

Members suspended for non-payment of dues.

Members delinquent in dues (including those who became delinquent by withdrawing from the check-off).

At the discretion of the steward, back dues may be paid in monthly installments of \$1.50.

Expelled members are not eligible to rejoin the local,

Applicants who never belonged to UE may join without payment of initiation fee up to August 1. Veterans who have not worked more than 90 days since return from military duty wil continue to be exempt from the initiation fee.

The union office reports that May payments of dues are coming in heavily and that there has been a pick-up in reinstatements. However, there is big need of the kind of systematic drive planned.

UE Wins Run-off Vote At Tiffin GE Plant

UE defeated IUE by a vote of 345 to 328 in the run-off NLRB election at the General Electric plant at Tiffin, Ohio.

IUE won the run-offs in five small GE shops in Cleveland: Equipment Works, UE, 193, and IUE, 204; Oper, Div.Bldg. Maint. UE, 11, and IUE, 17; E. Cleveland Lamp, UE, 83, and IUE, 111; Cleveland Bulb, UE, 80, and IUE, 108; Part Devel., UE, 19, and IUE,

When this week's EU News went to press no date had been set for the Toolmakers' run-off election in Schenectady.

\$268 Back Pay

UE Local 751 at the General Electric plant at Niles, Ohio, recently won \$268 back pay for a member and transfer back to his old job. He had been transferred to a lower rated job in violation of his seniority rights.