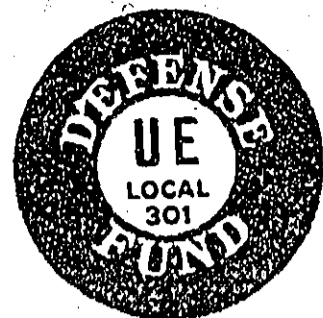


### Your Badge Of Strength



You can show GE the strength of your Union by wearing the above button.

When you wear it — it means you've contributed your \$5 to your Union's Fighting Fund.

It also lets GE know that you're prepared with what it takes to fight for additional wage increases and contract improvements—because your Union has a Fighting Fund.

Show GE where you stand!

Contribute your \$5 today to YOUR UE Local 301 Defense Fund.

### Hughes-Brees

Continued from page 1

peal have been introduced, with action scheduled on them any day.

Concern was expressed by some delegates that CIO decided not to attend the meeting because of its animus towards UE. '301' termed this short-sightedness on their part, pointing to the avowed opposition of CIO towards Hughes-Brees and the fact that 700 steel workers in Alcoa are now facing layoffs.

### Co. Union Rejected By Mica Workers

The 600 workers at the Mica Insulator Co. took another big step last week to throw off the shackles of company unionism and establish a real union in their plant.

A majority of the members of the company union attended two meetings of first and second shifts on Wednesday, Feb. 20 and voted, with but two votes in opposition, that the company union should be dissolved, that they wish to affiliate with and join UE, that UE should immediately represent them on grievances and administration of their contract and that all monies and property of the company union should be turned over to UE.

Management officials the next day refused to recognize this act of their employees, but meanwhile inside the plant more employees were signing UE cards.

The Mica employees have been receiving the aid of '301' officers and members in establishing UE in their plant so they can end a condition where they get 20 to 60 cents less an hour for similar work that's done in the GE Works under a UE contract.

Local 301 officers have urged that members who have friends and relatives in Mica to contact them and help make Mica a 100 percent UE shop.



ALBANY BOUND. Seen l. to r. above are Jeo Jandreau, business agent; Dewey Brashear, legislative chairman; Leon Novak, attorney; and James Cognetta, president, as they left for Albany on Feb. 19 to argue, together with AFL spokesman, before N. Y. state Republican legislative leaders for repeal of the Hughes-Brees amendments to the unemployment insurance law. (See story on page one)

### What GE Wants Humphrey To Do

That Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, (D. Minn.) is but a servant of GE in his announced intentions of "getting" UE was clearly revealed last week.

Humphrey, who says Taft-Hartley doesn't go far enough to break militant and fighting unions, which he calls "red," got a letter from another man who thinks Taft-Hartley doesn't go far enough—L. R. Boulware, GE's vice president.

Boulware said the law "leaves the employers no latitude to make any choice of our own contrary to the wishes of our employees and the instructions of the government." He called for a super-government agency to label those unions he doesn't like as "red" unions, so that they might be eliminated.

Since Humphrey thinks the same—and since both feel the same about UE—there's little doubt whose little errand boy Sen. Humphrey is.

## The Story Behind the Prudential Strike

Prudential insurance agents learned a lot during their recent strike—not the least of which was:

- Red-baiting is sucker-bait put out by the bosses to divide workers and break unions.
- A well prepared union is one that has some reserves.

But the price of learning this was long and bitter experience.

'301' members heard about it at the February membership meeting when Vincent Dembski, of the AFL International Union of Insurance Agents, appeared to make an appeal for help during the tenth week of their strike.

Though this AFL union is but six months old, Prudential agents were organized in 1939 by a CIO white collar union. Though the company called it a "red" union, the agents ignored the charge since they were for the first time standing up on their feet and getting things done for themselves like workers in other unions.

But when a few years back the CIO labor "statesmen" went soft and decided things were getting too rough for the old CIO militant

### Agents Thank UE

Thanking members of UE Local 301 for their "loyal support" in their recent strike, Joseph A. Tucci, president of Local 232, AFL Insurance Agents International Union, has stated in a letter to the Union:

"It goes without saying that it would be impossible for us to have continued our strike activities without your so gracious aid. Our membership has nothing but good will and appreciation toward the UE. If, at any time in the future, we can be of service to you, do not hesitate to call on us."

Tucci also requested that if any UE members have occasion to purchase insurance from a Prudential agent to ask him for his union card—to make sure no insurance is bought from a scab agent.

policies of an all-out fight against corporations to improve conditions, when they turned their backs on democratic unionism and demanded that all affiliates must follow a policy dictated by a few leaders, the CIO white collar union insisted

on its right to stick to the program and policies that had made CIO a great organization.

The CIO then called the union a "red" union and ordered another CIO union to raid it. The Prudential agents defeated this raid. Another raid followed and the workers decided they'd get a "clean" union — one that no one could say was "red." So they voted for the AFL.

They found out that the company wasn't any easier to deal with. On the contrary, a lot of things they'd won since 1939 were taken away. Then they didn't get any increases for a couple of years—though the company handed out two increases to all its other employees in the last year.

Then when their contract expired, on Dec. 1, 1951, their \$11 billion employer, second largest in the company, casually said: "We haven't any money for you."

The agents knew then that when Prudential had said it "wouldn't deal with a red union" it really had meant it didn't want to deal with any union.

But Prudential miscalculated. Evidently, it figured this would end unionism among its agents once and for all. But the agents had learned the lesson that the only thing an employer respects is the united strength of its workers—regardless of what label employers or their agents might tack onto their union.

The result was the largest white collar strike in the country's history, covering 34 states and the District of Columbia — for 12 weeks.

For 12 weeks they held their ranks solid until Prudential learned that its agents wouldn't fall for any more anti-union tricks.

Vince Dembski got the help he appealed for from '301.' He also received resounding applause when he told UE members, who a know from bitter experience:

"Don't fall for any red-baiting. It only helps the employers. And, brothers and sisters, build yourself a Fighting Fund so you'll have some reserves if your company forces you into a long and bitter battle such as we're in."

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, March 7, 1952



Louisville, Ky.—UE Local 236 struck the International Harvester Works after the company fired four grievancemen and a steward. The local charged the move "is part of a conspiracy by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to keep a low wage market for General Electric, which is now building a big plant here which will employ 16,000 workers."

Bessemer, Ala.—Members of Local 121 of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers (Ind.) defeated a raid by CIO steel workers at two iron ore mines of Republic Steel Co. The vote was 205 to 195.

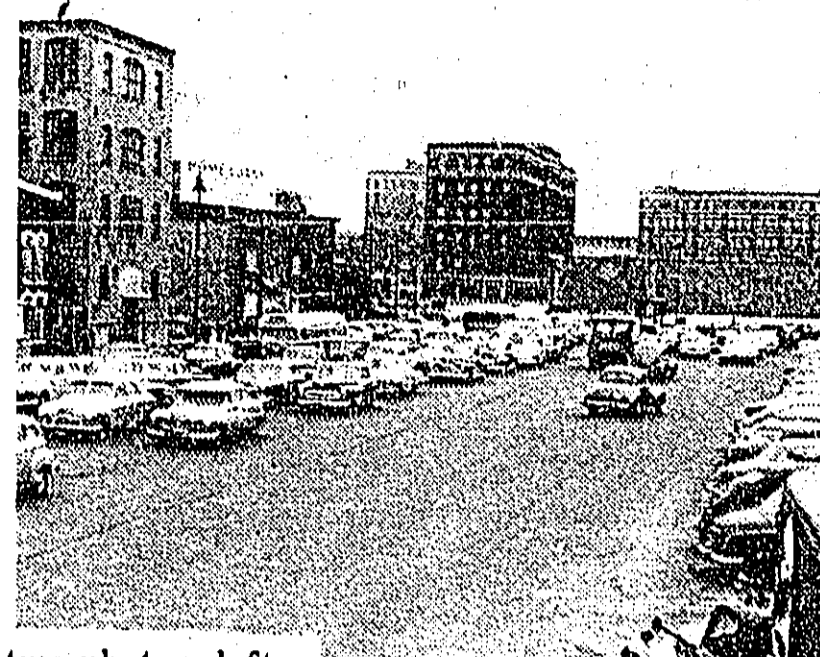
Spokane, Wash. — Aluminum companies, including Kaiser, are "using the defense effort as a cloak to garner further exorbitant profits," a CIO Steel union leader has charged.

Washington — Women work because they have to make a living. That was the answer to a questionnaire sent out by the U. S. Women's Bureau to 100 locals of six unions. 8,500 women sent in their replies.

Washington—The AFL's Labor League for Political Education reports that 84 out of 93 eligible international AFL unions are raising money from members for the 1952 political campaigns.

Wilmington, Cal. — Compress workers, who are members of the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union (Ind.), are now "probably the best paid in the world" in their industry after winning a 25 cent hourly pay increase that broke the wage freeze.

New York—A delegation of Fur & Leather Union members has protested Mayor Vincent Impellitteri's offer to play host to the Mayor of Madrid. "We are outraged," they said, "that our mayor sees fit to invite a man not elected by anybody, but appointed by the fascist dictator of Spain, Franco—to govern a city where free trade unionism is outlawed and where religious freedom of Protestant and Jews is grossly violated."



WALKOUT. Top two photos, left, show '301' members leaving Subway and Main gates at noon, March 4. Bottom left, cars and workers jam the street heading OUT from Subway Gate. Top right, is seen unusual mid-day traffic jam at Main Gate, while bottom, right, the exodus stalled traffic all the way up to State St. Center, right, is seen the big push from the parking lot at River Rd.

## Nationwide Walkout In GE

GE could have skipped blowing the whistle at the end of lunch-hour on all three shifts. Hardly anyone was in a mood to return to work on March 4 in the Schenectady Works.

Over 90 percent of the workers hung up the "Gone For The Day" signs.

GE could have skipped blowing the whistles in its entire chain. Workers in over 100 plants responded to UE's call, issued on Feb. 17, urging demonstrations calling for:

- An end to the wage freeze.
- For GE to get its industry members on the wage freeze board to act at once to approve the entire 3.58 percent increase.
- That GE sit down at once and bargain in good faith on the new wage demands of its employees.

The unity of GE's employees was solid on March 4. UE members were joined in their action by IUE members in plants throughout the chain. Many AFL workers also joined the action.

UE's militant fight to get the 3.58 increase, in which it called upon all GE workers to rally against GE's stalling, delays and do nothing policy on their wage needs, was welcomed by workers throughout the chain.

UE on Feb. 17 called for chain-wide demonstrations in both GE and Westinghouse to let the company know the temper of its workers. It met with such a hearty response that even the IUE-

CIO's leaders couldn't ignore the sentiment of their members. One week later, on Feb. 23, the IUE leaders called for parallel demonstrations on the same day UE had set—March 4.

This great demonstration of unity by GE workers was marred only by James B. Carey, IUE-CIO president. On the morning of March 4, he turned his back on his members' actions of solidarity and their economic welfare. UE's statesmanlike and practical proposal of the day before that 16 unions in the chain conduct a joint fight so that they might win maximum gains through their united strength in GE negotiations was rejected by Carey.

In Schenectady, the anger against GE was intensified on the eve of the demonstration by a statement that Works Manager Lewis J. Male issued to the press. It was Local 301 members who had first proposed six weeks ago the idea of a chain-wide demonstration if GE refused to go with UE top officers to personally urge the WSB to promptly approve the 3.58. GE rejected the proposal.

In GE's first public statement on the matter locally, Male, instead of taking any positive action, cited figures of how much a walkout would cost members. He tried to stave off the demonstration by arguing "nothing to be gained" and the workers would be "walking out for no good reason."

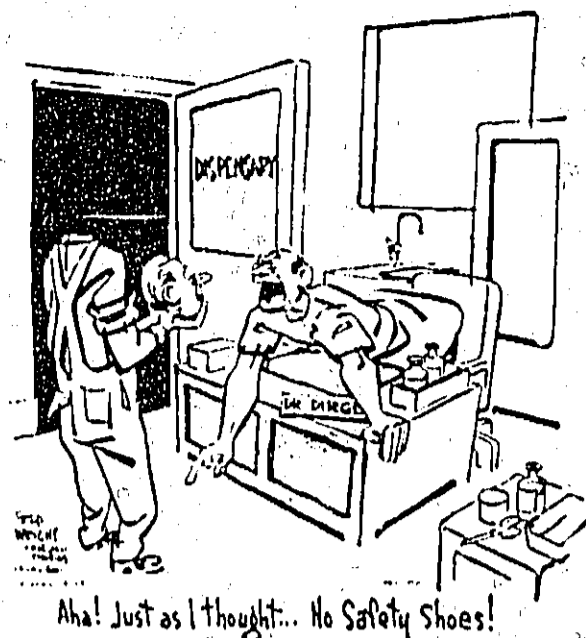
The morning after the demonstration, UE negotiators presented new wage demands to GE in New York City.

## Bill To Aid Silicosis Victims Pressed

Victims of silicosis are "in the very sad plight of having no remedy whatsoever either for themselves or their dependents" if they are partially disabled, UE Local 301 wrote to State Sen. Ernest I. Hatfield, chairman of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee.

Hatfield was told, in a letter sent last week by '301' Attorney Leon Novak, in which passage was urged of UE's bill to obtain benefits for partially disabled victims of silicosis, that "these victims of their occupation are put in the peculiarly hard position of having no remedy available to them either under Workmen's Compensation Law or any other statute or law in this state."

Silicosis victims are given benefits only if they are totally disabled but no benefits if only partially disabled. Novak pointed out that in "no other occupational disease is such a distinction made."



## Grievance Action Wins Upgradings

Grievance action at the management level has won an upgrading for Glenn Rose, Bldg. 273. Rose, a welder-hand-special, had his rate boosted from \$1.75 to \$1.86½.

Mary Eagan, Bldg. 28, now has a J job rate as a result of grievance action. When several other workers with less service were given J jobs, she filed a grievance. The new job means a boost from \$1.35 to \$1.42 an hour.

## 100% In Three Hours

The 48 second shift members of the A Bay screw machines in Bldg. 273 are signed up 100 percent for UE Local 301's Steward.

They signed up in less than three hours on Feb. 27. Steward James A. Brown called a lunch-hour meeting at which Ralph Vitalo, '301' executive board member, explained why such a fund is needed. Brown then followed up with the signatures. More than 50 percent have already paid their \$5 in full.

Says Brown: "We think we're the best Union gang in '301' and putting our dollars on the line for our Defense Fund is just another way for us to keep our reputation."

## UE ON THE JOB

Bldg. 37: Julia Pochily, office service, transferred to Knolls at her regular rate of \$1.38 was transferred back after one year to Bldg. 37 to her old job at a rate of \$1.26. The \$1.38 rate is demanded.

Bldg. 46: S. Sille, A&O, classified as class B moveman, demands a reclassification and higher rate for work he performs. Sille claims he was by-passed by foreman on a second shift dispatcher job, with job given to a moveman with less experience and service.

Bldg. 49: A. Walsh and B. Hand, gas turbine, demand reclassification as A sheet metal workers with increased rate, since they are qualified and supervision requires them to do A work.

J. Tulick, gas turbine, in tool cribs for five years has had responsibilities added to his work that are customarily done by A men. A reclassification and A rate is demanded.

A revaluation and increased job rate is demanded by F. A. Hurley, who does work beyond skills of a \$1.70 wiring job.

Bldg. 60: A group of elevator repairmen, required to paint elevators as part of their job, charge management is taking advantage

of this group's past cooperation. They do not object to minor paint work over small area, but object to painting work that belongs in painter classification. An investigation is demanded.

A reduction of forces is demanded by a screw machine group that has suffered loss of earnings over long period of time due to lack of work.

Bldg. 69: A group in control demand a washroom remain in operation in front of 69-2. The workers claim that to close will create ill-feeling and inconvenience for women and cause excessive loss of time which will affect their earning power.

Bldg. 269: A group in electronics-tube demands their rate be raised three steps to \$1.59½ for salvage work. Under ordinary circumstances, this work pays \$1.46½. Because of the hazard of mercury the higher rate is demanded. It is presently paying Hazel Glaser and Lillian F. Weightman only \$1.29.

Bldg. 273: Allen T. Claypool demands change of shift payment since he was returned to regular shift on Feb. 17 after being on seven day schedule for several weeks.

Clarence Williams asks adjust-

## Carey Called 'Labor Czar' By W'house IUE Leader

The man who has been head of IUE's Westinghouse Conference Board since it was set up has refused to run for re-election because IUE Pres. James B. Carey acts like a "labor czar" and is guilty of "irresponsible acts" which have "jeopardized the welfare of workers in the Westinghouse chain."

The charge was made last week by Michael Fitzpatrick, who said Carey's "practice of meeting with the Westinghouse management alone, which brought criticism from the Westinghouse conference board and its delegates, has continued in spite of his agreement to include the conference board officers in such discussions."

"Carey's knowledge of Westinghouse is nil, yet he continued this practice of negotiating with management on his own. There is no question but that it jeopardized the welfare of workers in the Westinghouse chain."

Fitzpatrick accused Carey of having the IUE's program created in his Washington office by union officials who know nothing about Westinghouse workers' problems.

"His are the acts of a labor czar, rather than the president of a democratic organization," he said. "I have no desire to be a party to Carey's irresponsible acts, which have a direct

bearing on the welfare of the workers of the entire Westinghouse chain."

Fitzpatrick made reference to a 12 week strike by 6,000 IUE members at the Westinghouse Buffalo plant and sporadic walkouts at the Bowling Green, Ky., plant which resulted in Westinghouse locking out the workers there and finally shutting down.

Fitzpatrick is a member of IUE Local 601 in East Pittsburgh, largest IUE local, where there have been reports of discontent with IUE for many months. IUE won the election at the plant by slightly over 100 votes out of 13,000 cast two years ago.

## Back Pay Won

I Kubina, an inspector in Bldg. 28, has secured back pay of five cents an hour for the period of July to November, 1951, as a result of Union grievance action at management level.

Upgraded from E to C in July, 1951, he did not get a one step increase until November. Steward J. Mann took up his grievance.

Bldg. 285: A group in S.M. section wants the same procedures in establishing prices as in S.M. Dept. in Bldg. 60, with special reference to thread and tap jobs and pricing of P.R. tables of hard and soft brass jobs.

A group demands that immediate steps be taken to ensure proper instruction in operation and safety for new operators. They're now moved from first to second shift after only about two weeks and "put on their own."

Campbell Ave.: Albert Pepicelli, general engineering lab., a class B tool crib keeper, demands an A classification because of increased duties and responsibilities.

Airport: A retroactive adjustment is demanded for Stephen Cheresnowsky, who was hired as class B aircraft mechanic on May 23, 1951. He has not received the job rate and was started two steps below job rate, a violation of contract article VI, 6 (a) 3.

A retroactive adjustment is demanded for Richard Hannay, who was hired April 23, 1951 as a C aircraft mechanic, has not received the job rate and started two steps below the rate, a violation of contract article VI, 6 (a) 3.

A retroactive adjustment is demanded for Fred F. Harrison, Jr., hired as class C aircraft mechanic on Feb. 25, 1951, has not received the job rate and was started two steps below the rate, a violation of contract article VI, 6 (a) 3.

## UE Urges Joint Wage Fight by 16 Unions

Joint action as the way to achieve maximum benefits in negotiations with General Electric and Westinghouse has been proposed by UE to 16 unions that represent workers in the two chains.

The proposal was made last week by Albert J. Fitzgerald, UE president.

With GE negotiations already underway and Westinghouse due to start soon, UE, which represents 75,000 workers in the two chains, urged the 16 unions to "press jointly in the coming wage negotiations for wage increases based upon the needs of the membership and not upon Wage Stabilization Board formulas derived from speed-up and the inadequate Bureau of Labor Statistics price index."

Stressing the urgency of such action, Fitzgerald pointed out that both GE and Westinghouse workers need higher wages.

"They did not get enough to meet their needs in the last negotiations, and what was

finally negotiated for them is still being withheld from them by the Wage Stabilization Board," he said, adding:

"We believe that the interests of GE and Westinghouse workers require that the unions involved proceed jointly along the lines we have suggested. The UE stands ready to meet with representatives of any or all of these unions to work out the details and form of such joint action on behalf of all the employees of the General Electric and Westinghouse companies."

Pointing out that GE and Westinghouse workers "welcome the fact" that the IUE-CIO decided a week after UE to join in protest meetings against WSB stalling on increases, Fitzgerald at the same time was particularly critical of two of IUE's demands for GE negotiations.

These are IUE's demands for "a cost of

living formula based on the BLS price index; and a productivity wage factor which would make wage increases subject to increased production. The UE regards the first two of the IUE-CIO's demands as both inadequate and dangerous.

"Neither is based upon the needs of the people but upon acceptance of the backward cost of living productivity formula advanced by the General Electric Co. in last year's negotiations."

Instead of this approach, UE placed emphasis on the need to end the wage freeze. "The wage freeze," the UE president declared, "under which labor has suffered the past two years is imposed under the authority of the so-called Defense Production Act, which freezes wages and allows prices and profits to soar."

"The UE proposes that organized labor join in opposition to the extension of the wage freeze law."

## Humphrey Gets Carey Assist

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minn.) got an assist from an old pal last week in his announced intention of "wrecking" UE. Humphrey has been out to get UE ever since the Union opposed him in Minnesota in his race for the senate in 1948.

The assist he got was from IUE-CIO Pres. James B. Carey—who last week in the IUE-CIO News took the same position against UE that GE's vice president, L. R. Boulware, had taken a week earlier.

Carey, who is anxious to get dues payments from Local 301 members but has been soundly trounced two years running by '301' members, adopted Boulware's position that a super-government board should be set up that would bar unions from bargaining that neither likes—which happens to be UE.

Carey's proposal, as spelled out by his attorney in a letter to Humphrey, calls for a committee which would not give contracts to electrical employers who deal with UE and cancel contracts where UE is the elected representative.

Carey said he agreed with CIO Pres. Philip Murray in opposing legislation such as Humphrey is proposing — but in the next breath came up with a proposal that he and Humphrey (and Boulware) hope would disrupt UE.

Carey not only doesn't care who he keeps company with—but seems determined to achieve his ends regardless of what the workers in democratic elections have voted.



READY TO FIGHT. Second shift stewards and members approved demands for GE negotiations and mapped plans for the fight ahead at their meeting, above, on March 3.

## Phony BLS Index Costs Workers 12c An Hour

American factory workers are being defrauded of 12 cents an hour because the U. S. government Bureau of Labor Statistics is hiding 36 percent of the increases in the cost of living when the wage freeze went into effect.

Facts to prove this contention were issued by UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald last week.

UE a year ago conducted an exhaustive survey of all factors that go into rises in living costs and exposed the BLS figures as being way below the actual advances in living costs that workers have suffered.

Fitzgerald's announcement last week was based on a corrected index for comparison with the figures issued by the BLS for January, 1952.

"The UE cost of living index for January," Fitzgerald said, "is 282.4 of the cost of living for 1939. BLS figures for the same base period show the cost of living at only 191.3 percent.

"The use of these biased figures from BLS in government wage freeze programs is defrauding American factory workers of at least 12 cents an hour," the UE leader stated. "The UE index measures federal taxes, used car prices and cost of home ownership, none of which is included in the BLS index. UE also measures low priced clothing, food and other items instead of expensive items used by BLS."

Fitzgerald said these formerly low priced items have increased in cost more rapidly than those used by the government.

Tax increases, rent increases, jumps in the cost of food and increased cost of medical care caused the UE index to rise from 231.4 in the first quarter of 1950 to 282.4 in January of this year.

## Campbell On Spot On Hughes-Brees

The eyes of the labor movement in the Capitol district were on Republican State Sen. Thomas P. Campbell last week, following the senate's action in voting down two bills that would have repealed the Hughes-Brees amendments that have done so much harm to the state unemployment insurance act.

Sen. William Bianchi's bill was voted down 45 to 1, while Sen. Giltleson's bill was six votes short of a majority as Democrats cooperated with Republicans by absenting themselves in sufficient numbers to prevent a majority vote.

Sen. Campbell voted against both bills—despite AFL opposition and the fact that over 12,000 UE Local 301 members had signed petitions calling for repeal. Over 60 Republican county committeemen had done the same.

Campbell is now on the spot to meet his commitments that he will press for repeal of some of the Hughes-Brees amendments. No action had been forthcoming early in the week by Campbell, which led to speculation among labor in the district that they might have to do the same to Campbell next November that they did to ex-Mayor Begley of Schenectady last year.

Convinced that Begley was no friend of theirs, the labor vote retired Begley in the last mayoralty election.

## Payment of 1.08

The best information available at presstime was that GE is planning to pay wages on the new rates with the 1.08 percent increase on March 14 and pay retroactive money on March 21.

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
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Local 301

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