

## Speedy Action Asked On Job Questionnaires

Committeemen wishing to submit claims that rates on jobs they represent are out of line should fill in the questionnaires and return them to their Executive Board members promptly, for study by the job evaluation committee of the Board. Members should take up their claims with their committeemen.

Distribution of the questionnaires through the Board members was completed this week. The committee expects to start promptly its study of the claims. It will report to the committeemen and to the membership, in preparation for submitting proposals to the company.

Getting the proper job rate is important for day workers and piece workers as well. Even where piece earnings are satisfactory, the job rate is important. The job rate is the basis for arriving at the AER (anticipated earning rate), which in turn establishes the basis for the timing rate on which future prices are based.

Under the membership's new policy, inequities in job rates will be handled on an over-all basis instead of in individual grievances. It is therefore important that claims be submitted now.

The question of job rate is separate from the question of an individual worker's classification. The question of whether or not a worker is classified correctly is a proper subject for a grievance at any time.

## 'Rumor Factory' Is Busy Again

Another one of those rumors that Local 301 was planning another dues increase after the wage increase was reported circulating around the plant this week. The rumor apparently originated with the so-called "Democratic Action" Carey-Block group which has been fighting UE policy. It paralleled the statement by GE President Charles E. Wilson that GE would put over price increases.

The rumor is wrong, for two reasons. First — dues can be increased only by action of the membership. No such action has ever been proposed by any one in a position of responsibility in 301.

Second — the officers and Executive Board of 301 believe the wage raises call neither for a dues increase nor for price increases.

## GE Helps Speed Inflation by Boosting Prices On Everything from Turbines to Sandwiches

After agreeing to wage increases for employes under the UE contract, the General Electric Co. announced an average jump of seven per cent in prices of its products.

There is no need or justification for a price increase, James J. Matles, UE director of organization, immediately pointed out.

"Our financial settlements were modest ones," he said. "Based on profits reported for the first quarter of 1947, there is every reason to believe this will be a bumper profit year for the GE Company."

President Charles E. Wilson of GE greeted the UE-GE wage settlement with a tirade about "a wave of wage increases sweeping the country."

"Inflation is here," he said, "and prices will go higher - - -"

The General Electric Co. apparently is determined to speed inflation by raising prices on everything from turbines to bean sandwiches and coffee sold in the Schenectady GE cafeterias.

Although the company was recently quoted as stating there would be no price jump in heavy apparatus, prices for turbines were increased April 14, before the wage settlement was reached. Turbine prices at the Fitchburg, Mass., GE plant were raised 20 per cent; at Lynn, 10 per cent and at Schenectady, 5 per cent.

Price of food in the Schenectady plant cafeterias was boosted immediately after the wage increases were announced. Coffee now costs 7 cents instead of 5 cents. Practically all other items jumped two or three cents.

Local 301 officers have demanded that GE explain the basis for the increase in food prices.

## It's a Girl

Congratulations to Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, and Mrs. Pasche on the birth of a daughter, Jean, Sunday. The baby weighed six pounds, 10 ounces. The Pasches have a four-year old son, Nicholas.

## CIO Council Broadcast

The Capital District CIO Council will broadcast at 12:15 p.m. Sunday over WOKO.

## Pensioners to Meet

Stanley R. Putnam, manager of the Social Security Administration in Schenectady, will be speaker at the regular meeting of the UE-CIO 301 Pension Organization at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, at 301 Hall.

## GE Wants to Drop Profit Sharing Plan

The General Electric Co. has announced it proposes to end its existing General Profit Sharing Plan at the end of 1947.

In a letter to UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald Apr. 25, E. D. Spicer, GE vice-president, said:

"We feel that the changes in conditions generally since the Profit Sharing Plan was established have been such that the purposes and objectives which the company had in mind when the plan was established can no longer be attained by its continuance."

Spicer said the company would be "glad" to discuss the matter further with the union before carrying out its intention. GE plans to make its "final decision" by June 1.

The union has protested on various occasions against any proposal to end the Plan. However, the Profit Sharing Plan has never been part of the GE-UE contract.

The Schenectady Gazette story Monday on the contract settlement made the false statement that the ending of the Profit Sharing Plan would "result from the new one-year agreement." The wording gave the misleading impression that this was part of the settlement.

UE will continue its fight against the GE's announced intention of stopping the extra payments.

## 301 Board Joins Protest Against Barring Robeson

The Local 301 Executive Board endorsed the meeting called for last night at A. M. E. Zion Church to protest the action of the Albany Board of Education in barring a Paul Robeson concert from Philip Livingston Junior High School.

George Judway, Henry Busse and Stanley Bishop were named to represent the union at last night's meeting.

The Schenectady Citizens' Unity Council, at an executive committee meeting Monday, passed a resolution urging Schenectady officials to make sure that public auditoriums here are kept open to speakers and artists "regardless of race, color, creed or political belief."

# Electrical Union News

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## Changes Proposed In 301 Constitution

Proposed changes in the constitution of Local 301, recommended by the Constitution Committee, will be placed before the regular union membership meeting May 20 at 301 Hall. Copies of the suggested changes have been mailed to all shop committeemen.

The Constitution Committee consists of Edward Wallingford, chairman; Blanchard Mowers, secretary; Frank Emspak, George Walker and Roy Lash, acting in conjunction with Leo Jandreau, business agent.

Major points of the proposals are listed below. Members can consult their committeemen for details.

### Highlights of Changes

Several changes are recommended in the election provisions. One is that all nominations of officers be made from the floor of the November general membership meeting. At present nominations are made at a committeemen's meeting in November and submitted to a membership meeting that month for approval or changes.

There would be no limit on the number of nominations for any office. Nominees would be informed by registered mail of their nomination and must accept within three days of receiving the notice in order to be listed as candidates.

An Election Committee of 25 members would be elected from the floor of the November general membership meeting to direct the elections. If possible, they shall furnish voting machines in place of paper ballots. There are var-

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## 301 Cancer Drive Collects \$1572.05

Collections made by Local 301 committeemen in the shops for the Schenectady County cancer drive totaled \$1,572.05 according to reports made to Adam Boss of the union office by Wednesday.

Remaining collection tins should be turned in at the 301 office at once, whether they have been filled or not.

## Local 301 Approves GE Contract; Must Defend It Against Congress

Members of Local 301 shouted unanimous approval of the 1947 UE-GE contract settlement at an overflow meeting Monday night at the union hall.

They gave a standing vote of thanks to Leo Jandreau, local business agent and a member of the national negotiating committee, and to the international UE officers for their work.

The contract,

which has been ratified by GE locals throughout the country, is scheduled to be signed next week. It follows the pattern established by UE at GM and Westinghouse this

year, a pay increase of approximately 15 cents. The general increase is 11½

cents an hour and the other 3½ cents covers six paid holidays, for all workers and a third week of vacation for those with 20 years service.

The pay raises, retroactive to April 14, are expected to be put into effect within the next few weeks.

After approving the contract, the 301 members voted to send telegrams to President Truman and Senators Robert F. Wagner and Irving M. Ives urging them to defend the rights and the gains of labor against anti-labor legislation.

### UE Sets Pattern

Jandreau told the meeting that UE broke the bottleneck in collective bargaining with industry this year for all unions by establishing the 15 cents an hour, six holiday pattern for the electrical division of GM. The Westinghouse settlement on practically the same basis followed swiftly. Then came the Steelworkers settlement with U. S. Steel, using the same formula, and later the Auto Workers achieved similar settlements.

Some of the people who called UE leaders "strike happy" last year, are criticizing the union this year for settling for the 15 cents, Jandreau pointed out.



Leo Jandreau

"Our policy has been to do our best for the interest of our people," he said. "If we can get a good settlement without a strike, we do so."

### Unity Is Vital

He declared that unity in the union membership is vital to maintain the gains of the new contract against the onslaught of anti-labor legislation.

"Some people in Washington are trying to put us out of business and to tear down the fundamental democratic liberties."

It was not helpful to the negotiators to have articles appearing in newspapers, during the GE sessions, quoting anti-union remarks of certain UE members, he pointed out.

International President Albert J. Fitzgerald, scheduled to speak, was unable to arrive because his plane was grounded.

"UE has pioneered the way for a new wage increase pattern in the nation's basic industries," Fitzgerald said recently.

"We feel that we have firmly established for the first time in industrial history the right of working men and women to enjoy their holidays without loss of pay."

## Leland Stowe Broadcast

You can hear Leland Stowe at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday on the national UE radio program over WSNY (1240 on your dial), WABY (1400) and WBCA (FM).

## Field Day June 29

Remember to save June 29 for the annual Local 301 field day at Pete and Sally's Grove, Upper Albany St. Maybe you'll drive home in the automobile that is the No. 1 gate prize.

**Celebrate Your Pay Raise By Signing Up a New UE Member Today**

## Telegram Campaign Still Going Strong

Additional names have been reported by various Board members of committeemen who sent telegrams to Washington on anti-labor bills on behalf of workers in their groups.

Dewey Brashear reported: Matthew Shearer, William Fisher, James Lucarella, Helen Quirini, John Poltrack, Leon Jeroszko and Fred Wilson, all of Bldg. 81, and Lawrence Gebro, Joseph Hills, Sunday Lupi, Jack Glunz, Stella Stankovich, Michael Maryzak, Lucy DeCarlo, Connie Wrex and Dominick Colucci, all of Bldg. 89.

George Judway reported: Edmund Tanski, Bldg. 40, and John Brauneisen, and Judway, Bldg. 18.

James Cognetta reported: Harry Bayless, Martin Burgess, Anthony Batkiewicz, all of Bldg. 52, and John Ohlidal, Bldg. 66.

Sam Scott reported: Pauline Freeman, Francis Behan, Chester Shannon, Peter Monzo, Edward F. Crosby, P. C. Everett and Scott, all of Bldg. 285.

Michael Tedisco reported: Stanley Fisher, Joseph Belak, and C. B. Kelly, all of Bldg. 16, and Edmund Calleo and Kenneth Sheehan, Bldg. 17.

Stanley Bishop reported: Richard Neilson, David Fiore, Stanley Bishop, Joseph Whitbeck, Marie Westcott, and Marie Sweeney, Bldg. 69.

Leland Sisto reported: Theodore Dahlem and R. C. Hutton, Bldg. 273.

Alfred Pelrah reported: Joseph Rotunda, Jesse Richtmeyer, Carl Fuchs, Patsy Penta, Marty Picozzi and Dominick Gabriele, all of Bldg. 73.

A. J. Spears reported: C. F. Ossenfort, Fred Paelli, and Leonard Reichel, Bldg. 101, and Leo J. Ackenbrack, Bldg. 105.

Henry Busse reported: Gerald DiSorbo, Bldg. 68.

## On Legislative Committee

Henry Kaminski, Bldg. 76, has been appointed to the Legislative Committee to replace Albert De Lucia. He was named by Henry Busse, Board member for his section.

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William Templeton, Chairman  
Mary McMartin, Secretary  
Willard Kuschel, Victor Pasche  
Leland Sisto  
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## Organizing Drive

Winners of U. S. bonds for signing up the most new members by May 1 in the Local 301 organizing drive will be announced at the membership meeting May 20 at the union hall. The first prize is a \$100 bond; second prize, a \$50 one, and third prize, a \$25 one.

Norman Pink, Bldg. 269, has been added to the honor roll for having 100 per cent union membership in his group. He is in Leland Sisto's section.

William Stewart, chairman of the Organizing Committee, has reported 551 new members as of May 1. The figure reached 600 by Wednesday of this week. The drive has been continued until June 1 and one dollar will be awarded to each member for every new card he turns in until then.

There are still 3400 workers under the UE contract who should become members of Local 301, Stewart told the membership meeting Monday night. He said the campaign will continue after June 1 if necessary.

## How Does He Keep His Face Straight?

Charles E. Wilson, GE president, was one of the 23 business leaders who recently signed an appeal to industry to reduce prices. Newspapers printed the story May 5, about a week after GE announced an average jump of seven per cent in prices of its products.

The statement signed by Wilson and issued through the National Planning Association called on industry to show "economic statesmanship" by cutting prices and thus saving the country from a serious slump.

A GE advertisement appeared Wednesday, May 7, in Schenectady papers stating the company would raise prices.

GE has already jumped prices on turbines, refrigerators and even on bean sandwiches sold in the Schenectady GE cafeterias.

## Bldg. 107 Retirement

Ernest E. Hill, for a long time committeeman for the carpenters in Bldg. 107, retired May 1. His group gathered to wish him good luck and gave him a farewell gift. Frederick Zinsnar, the new committeeman, was elected after Hill resigned in preparation for his retirement.

MAKE IT 100% UE AT GE

## Changes Proposed In 301 Constitution

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ious other details added.

At present an Election Committee of unspecified size is chosen by a general meeting of shop committeemen.

### Section on Shop Stewards

Under the new clauses, the terms shop representatives and shop committeemen would be dropped in favor of the official name, shop stewards.

Any shop steward who is absent twice in succession from general meetings of shop stewards would be automatically dropped as a steward, unless excused by vote of the Executive Board. (Under the new GE-UE contract stewards have top seniority in their departments in event of layoffs).

In case of the temporary appointment of any shop steward, an election would have to take place within 15 days of the appointment. Another proposed change would provide that a shop steward can't represent members outside his own group, working under another foreman, without Executive Board approval.

### Other Proposed Changes

It is proposed that the Legislative Committee be named by the Executive Board, instead of being elected by the shop stewards. Any member of the Legislative Committee absent from two consecutive meetings, unless excused by the Executive Board, would be automatically dropped.

A proposed new section on members making statements to the press on union business reads:

"If any member makes statements through the press affecting union business, other than authorized union officials, before exhausting the procedure within the union, that action shall be considered to be an offense against the union, and shall be subject to Article XXII, Trials and Appeals, in the Constitution."

A new section on Trials and Appeals would replace the present one. Charges against members would be tried under direction of the general membership, instead of under the Executive Board and the shop committeemen's meetings.

One of the technical changes proposed is that all revenue received from social functions shall be credited to the local's general fund.

## Softball Team

The Executive Board voted \$45 recently for expenses of the men's softball team which Michael Tedisco is organizing.



**WAGE SESSION**—One of the six group meetings of shop committeemen called to discuss wage injustices before the 301 Executive Board job evaluation committee started examining claims submitted. The meeting photographed was for stewards from the sections of Willard Kuschel, Anthony Villano, Albert Davis and Bldgs. 59 and 269, part of Leland Sisto's section. Job value questionnaires have been distributed to committeemen throughout the plant and are now being filled out. The survey covers both piece work jobs and day work jobs.

## UE District 3 Urges 24 Hour Stoppage

The session of the UE District 3 Council April 26 at Utica voted unanimously to ask CIO President Philip Murray to call a nationwide one-day work stoppage of CIO members to protest against anti-labor legislation now in Congress. The resolution urged that efforts be made to have the AFL, railway brotherhoods and other unions join in the demonstration. Local 301 passed a similar resolution earlier in April.

The Council condemned the Truman administration's proposal for the loans to Greece and Turkey and urged that problems involving those countries be handled through the United Nations.

Condemning the so-called "Committee for Democratic Action", the Council demanded it be dissolved and called on all locals in the district to take action against the disruptive group.

## Speed Is Requested

Committeemen and members are reminded once more that the fill-in questionnaires with respect to job rates which the committeemen consider to be too low in relation to the over-all wage picture in the plan should be turned in promptly to their respective Executive Board members. Members should take up claims as to their jobs with their committeemen.

## Visits to Washington by CIO Delegations Help Chances of Beating Anti-Labor Bills

CIO delegations to Washington against the anti-labor bills have had a very good effect, according to Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative.

More than 2,000 CIO people, mostly rank-and-filers, have been in the nation's capital during the past two weeks to see their senators and congressmen.

"Their efforts have certainly improved our chances of killing the bust-union drive," Nixon said. "The CIO delegations have proven that the rank-and-file of labor oppose the anti-labor measures. Reactionary politicians supporting these bills have hoped to split the leadership of the unions from the average union member."

Nixon reported that the CIO delegations were impressed by "how uninformed and actually stupid most of the congressmen were about the anti-labor bills they had passed."

Delegation after delegation was told by its congressman that he hadn't read the measure he voted for.

"Many of the congressmen tried to dodge the delegations and find excuses for being busy and out of their offices," Nixon said. "By and large, they didn't succeed. Many of the other congressmen found they had to suddenly cut off their conference with our delegates because of 'previous' engagements. This usually happened when the going began to get hot for the congressman himself."

## Anti-Union Rumors Can Do Real Harm

Rumors circulated about a union are an old method of trying to bust the union. That is true whether the rumor comes from inside or outside the union, whether it is passed intentionally or unintentionally. To protect your own rights as well as your union — don't believe rumors and don't pass them on. Get your facts from your union meetings, union committeeman and your union newspaper.

There have been a flock of rumors in connection with the new contract victory. Two such rumors this week, apparently advanced by two foremen, were that the steamfitters were not included, and that there was a change in vacations for workers with two to five years' service. Both stories are lies. Steamfitters are included. The only change in vacation schedules is up, for twenty-year service people.

Don't believe rumors.