

GEB Policy Upheld In Bridgeport Case

The Local 301 membership meeting Feb. 18 went on record in support of the UE General Executive Board's action in revoking the charter of Local 203 at the Bridgeport GE plant for unconstitutional expulsions of 27 members. The members were expelled without charges being filed or hearings held.

The entire handling of the Bridgeport matter by the GEB was approved by the Schenectady membership meeting. The GEB has assigned an international representative to reorganize the Bridgeport local and protect job and contract rights of workers.

Anti-Union Actions

Meanwhile some of these former Bridgeport officers, active in the Carey-Block group calling itself "The Committee for Democratic Action", have issued "anti-Communist" statements to newspapers in which they attack the national UE leadership. They have jumped at an invitation to testify today before the notorious Committee on Un-American Activities at Washington. They have been quoted in newspapers as favoring having Local 203 secede from the UE, as favoring joining another CIO union, or an AFL union or an "independent" one.

Won't Press Charges Now

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posals for amending the Constitution will be turned over to the Constitution Committee.

Charges considered by the present Board included complaints about actions of certain union members. Some were charged with sponsoring and organizing the Mechanics Educational Society of America (MESA). Charges were made that a former Board member, in collusion with supervision, caused the removal of a shop representative.

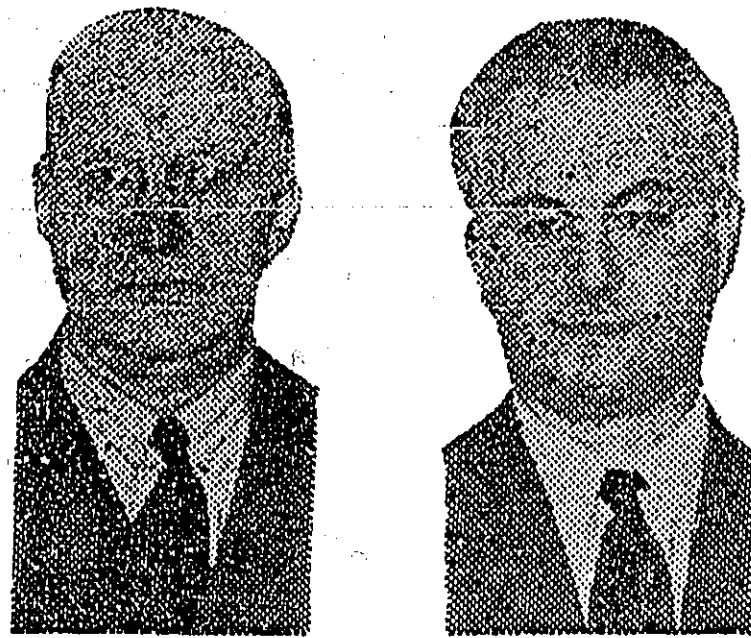
The Board stated that the "proper disposition" of these cases on an individual basis "would without doubt lead to expulsion from our union of those members charged with this anti-union activity."

Unity Is Urgent

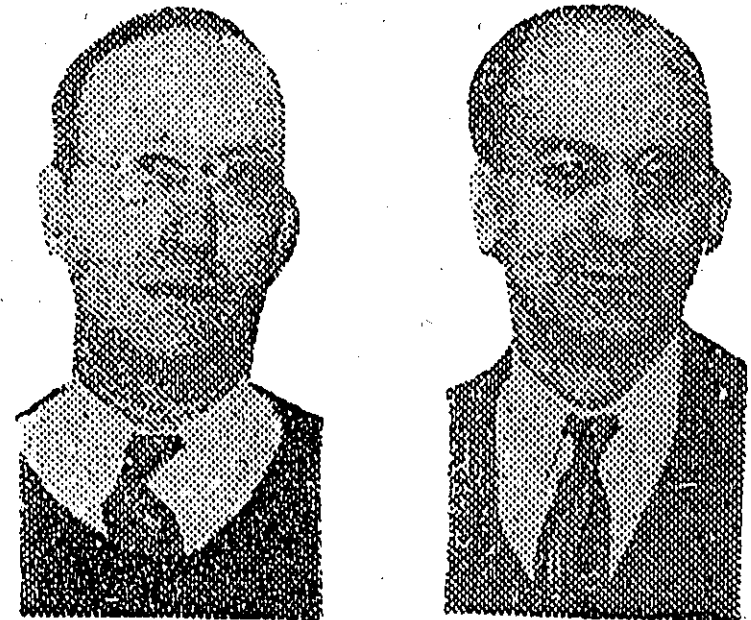
It pointed out, however, that the union now faces the major jobs of negotiating a good contract and of fighting anti-labor bills.

"Processing these charges at this time would destroy the unity the union needs to accomplish the demands set forth to the company and to get a united front to fight legislation that would make unions ineffective," the Board declared.

Committee Officers



Edward Wallingford, left, is chairman of the Constitution Committee and Blanchard Mowers, right, is secretary.



Above are: A. J. Spears, left, chairman of the House Committee, and Sidney Friedlander, right, secretary.

301 Backs UE Officers On Protest Over Wilson

Action of national UE officers in urging Secretary James B. Carey to resign from the Civil Rights Committee headed by GE President Charles E. Wilson was approved by the Feb. 18 membership meeting of Local 301.

UE officers have protested that Wilson is unfit to be chairman of President Truman's committee because he led the fight to suppress civil rights in last year's GE strike. Local 301 stewards and the Executive Board backed the national UE officers' stand that Carey should not sit on the committee with Wilson as chairman.

Carey has issued a statement complimenting Wilson on his "long background of public service and unusual understanding of community problems."

Sworn as Committeemen

New shop committeemen who took the oath of office Feb. 18 were: George H. Stanton, Bldg. 26; C. J. Chlopecki, Bldg. 64A; Jerry Damiano, Bldg. 18, and Joseph J. Smith, Bldg. 18.

Veterans' Center Opens at 301 Hall

Starting this week, the Veterans' Committee of Local 301 will operate a veterans' service center two afternoons a week at the union hall.

The room next to the Executive Board room will be used for this purpose from 1 to 5 p.m. every Wednesday and Friday. The center was scheduled to open yesterday and will welcome veterans again tomorrow.

One member of the committee will be assigned to the center every afternoon it is open. He will be provided with necessary material to aid veterans on such problems as converting veterans' insurance, filling out terminal leave forms, housing, on-the-job training and settlement of grievances. Information will be available on such matters as readjustment allowances as related to waiting time for unemployment insurance.

The plans drawn up by the Veterans' Committee for assisting the thousands of former GI's at the Schenectady GE plant were approved by the membership meeting of Local 301 Feb. 18.

Joseph Dominelli is chairman of the committee and Dewey Brashear, secretary.

301 Supports Bill For Midnight Work

Local 301 will press for the passing of State Senator William F. Condon's bill to allow women to continue working until midnight in factories for another year.

Unless such legislation is passed this session at Albany, the old 10 p.m. curfew for women workers will automatically return Apr. 1. This would reduce weekly earnings of women at GE.

The membership meeting Feb. 18 voted in favor of continuing the midnight work limit. Meetings of the Executive Board and the Committeemen had taken the same action, after a survey in the shops showed Local 301 women overwhelmingly endorse retaining the midnight work.

On GE Conference Board

President Andrew Peterson, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Treasurer Marshall White are the Local 301 representatives on the GE Conference Board for 1947. They were elected at the Feb. 18 membership meeting on recommendation of a Committeemen's meeting. Brother Jandreau is on the UE negotiating committee.

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Local 301 Will Fight Banning Sound Trucks

The Executive Board has called on the committeemen of Local 301 to organize a large rank-and-file protest delegation against the proposed ordinance to prohibit sound trucks and loud speaker equipment on Schenectady streets.

The plans call for committeemen, rank-and-file members and the entire Board to appear Monday night at the City Council hearing on the ordinance.

Backing a telegram President Andrew Peterson sent to Mayor Mills Ten Eyck against the ordinance, the Board meeting Mon. unanimously approved by the action campaign recommended by the Legislative Committee. The committeemen's meeting was to act on the proposal Tuesday night, after this week's issue of EU News went to press.

Leaders of Schenectady CIO unions have asked City Manager Arlen T. St. Louis to meet with them to discuss the proposed ordinance.

The Schenectady CIO Coordinating Committee decided Saturday to seek the conference before the public hearing.

CIO Council to Protest

The Capital District CIO Council's Executive Board voted last week to protest against the ordinance at the hearing.

President Peterson sent a telegram last week to Mayor Ten Eyck urging him to investigate the forces behind the ordinance. Brother Peterson declared the prohibition of sound trucks would be "another step in the drive to suppress free public discussion and civil liberties."

Untruthful Editorial

The Union-Star ran an editorial defending the move to prohibit sound trucks and misquoting the Peterson telegram:

The editorial said: "Nor are we convinced that noise is the only method for reaching 'working people.'"

Of course the Peterson telegram didn't say loud speakers are the only way of reaching working people. It stated:

"Loud speakers are among the means most readily available to the working man to reach the community with his side of the story."

They Head Activities



Officers of the 1947 Activities Committee of Local 301 are George Judway, left, chairman, and E. J. La Bombard, right, secretary.

UE-GE Bargaining Sessions

Contract negotiations with General Electric were continued Tuesday after a weekend recess. They started Feb. 26 and continued through last Friday. The proposals of the union were discussed during the three-day period. The UE committee, which includes Leo Jandreau of Local 301, has not yet announced when it will make its first report to the membership.

Finance Officers

Marshall White, treasurer of Local 301, has been elected chairman of the finance committee and Eugene LeMoine, secretary.

Need Any Help On Income Tax?

Two U. S. income tax officials will be at Local 301 Hall this week and next week to help members make out their tax returns.

They will be there weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. They started their work at the union hall Monday of this week.

How about dropping in today and avoiding that last minute rush?

Union Continues Fight to Raise Women's AER's

Works Manager J. M. Howell admitted in a grievance meeting with Local 301 last week that the AER's (anticipated earning rate) on low-rated piece work jobs normally performed by women do not include the usual incentive differential which is included in other AER's as the basis for setting prices.

But, said Howell, the company has "no intention of raising the prices on this kind of work." He said "we think the take-out is good at the present time."

Howell backed up the position previously taken by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, in refusing to raise the AER's for women, but directly contradicted the explanation given by Stevens.

Stevens had argued that piece work jobs with an AER of 89½ cents were less-skilled than day work jobs with a job rate of 89½ cents. Howell admitted

A special meeting of all women committeemen and of committeemen representing women piece workers will be held at 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, March 12, at the union hall, Liberty Street and Erie Boulevard, to discuss the question of AER's on women's jobs. All women members will be welcome.

that 89½ cents was the lowest production job day rate, and that many of the piece work jobs with an AER of 89½ cents were "about the same" as many of the day work jobs.

It is an accepted piece work principle that the AER carries an "incentive factor" over the day rate, for "normal incentive efficiency." In most systems it is around 20 percent. At GE it is now only three wage rate steps.

Howell contended there was no need of this differential on the low-rated jobs, because the women were making "high earnings." He said that for a given period ending in January, in the Control Division, the women on an AER of 89½ cents earned an average of \$1.05

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