

CIO-PAC Workers Busy through Nov. 5

Schenectady CIO-PAC activities will be concentrated between now and election day on street meetings and house-to-house canvassing. The climax will be Nov. 5, next Tuesday, when squads of union members will watch at the polls, check on registered voters who haven't yet appeared and call at their homes in the get-out-the-vote drive.

Democratic and ALP candidates backed by PAC will speak at the neighborhood rallies. Two meetings are scheduled for 8 p.m. tonight, Thursday in Ward 12, one of them at the carbarns, Eastern Ave. and McClellan St., and the other at Becker and Furman Sts.

Two meetings are planned for tomorrow, Friday at 8 p.m., a Ward 7 rally at Craig and Albany Sts. and a Ward 13 rally at Grant and Hulett Sts.

The PAC committee is arranging for two Ward 10 meetings Saturday night. The places were not selected by the time EU News went to press.

Two meetings will be conducted Monday in Ward 8, places to be announced later.

Ernest Herman, CIO-PAC chairman, and Fay Marvin, assistant, have called for additional volunteers for last-minute canvassing and for Election Day work. Volunteers should telephone PAC headquarters, 2-1309, or contact their ward chairmen.

Roy Lash has been named the third section head for the PAC campaign, in charge of Wards, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14. The other two, previously announced, are Joseph Dominali and Joseph Krawieki, also of Local 301.

All wards in the city of Schenectady now have PAC chairmen, with the appointments of John Krawieki to the Ward 6 post; Fred Schaffler, Ward 8; Rudy Ellis, Ward 13, and Sydney Webb, Ward 14. All four are local 301 members.

**Stop the Drive
by the
GE - Dunn - Cushing
Machine
AGAINST THE UNION
VOTE
the whole PAC slate**

Labor Candidates



Thomas Fyvie, left, and Lewis Benedict, right, Schenectady CIO leaders running for office with CIO-PAC endorsement. Brother Fyvie is secretary-treasurer of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, and Brother Benedict is president of Local 150, Transport Workers Union. Both are candidates on the ALP ticket.

Local 301 to Ask Toolmakers' Raise

Plans for submitting a case to the GE management for a general wage increase for toolmakers were approved by the Executive Board Monday.

The following proposed four-point program will be presented for discussion and approval today (Thursday) to a meeting of a toolmakers' committee.

1. Wage increase of 20 cents an hour.
2. Progression to the top rate of their respective classifications.
3. Reclassification of tool room mechanics to tool making.
4. Comparable wage increases for all other tool room employees.

Since the last wage adjustment for toolmakers, which was ordered by the War Labor Board, many changes have taken place affecting this occupation. The proposals would bring Schenectady toolmakers in line with those in comparable industries.

Union Prepares Case On Machinists' Pay

A case for a 10-cent raise for machinists is being prepared by the union.

The demand, which will be presented as a wage grievance, is based on the relationship which existed between the toolmakers' and machinists' rates up to 1944, before the union won a 10-cent increase for the toolmakers through a War Labor Board case.

Complaint Filed On Welders Pay

As a result of dissatisfaction with welding pay in Bldgs. 52 and 66, Ray Flanigan, assistant to the business agent, has filed a complaint for the union with GE management.

The union told GE that the welding work involved has carried a job rate lower than other trades of the same required skill.

The union also pointed out that on first class day work rates of \$1.28 1/2 to \$1.43 1/2 an hour are being paid for welding. Adding the regular 15 per cent differential, which is used to arrive at an AER rate, would result in an AER rate higher than is being paid at the present time.

Since the establishment of this present job rate, the union stated, there have been many changes in the operations which require considerable more skill than originally.

Likewise the quality requirements have stiffened and the company now makes welders take tests at intervals to show they retain the required skill on the job. Responsibilities of these welders have also increased.

To Address Farmers

Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, will speak Saturday at the annual convention, in Utica of the Northeastern Division, Farmers Union.

Profits Reach All-Time High

Corporation profits for the year 1946 will reach an all-time high of \$14 billion at the rate of profits are now rolling in, according to a study in the CIO News.

This would be \$4 billion above the annual average in the wartime years and 250 per cent above the average for the 1936-1939 peacetime period. Food, textile and beverage industries, with no reconversion problem, are leading the profits parade.

The figures prove the truth of the CIO's claims that wage increases could be paid out of increased profits, without boosting prices.

Return to A.C. Stevens

Electrical Union News

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

VOL. III—No. 30

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 7, 1946

UE Calls Conference On Wage Program

New wage demands will be discussed at a joint conference of the union's GE, Westinghouse, General Motors, Sylvania, RCA and General Cable Conference Boards next Monday in New York City. The 18 1/2 cents an hour wage increase of UE was initiated in such a joint conference last year.

More than 250,000 workers will be represented at the conference by delegates from 139 plants in 22 states. The Local 301 delegates will be Leo Jandreau, Andrew Peterson and Edward Wallingford.

The conference will have before it results of a recent UE survey showing the sharp decline of the standard of living in the electrical industry since OPA controls were removed last June 30. Schenectady was one of the eight cities in which the 503 cost-of-living questionnaires were distributed.

Workers Buy Less

The survey revealed that workers reduced their purchases of milk by three quarts a week on the average, since June. They reduced their purchases of (Continued on Page 3)

LOCAL 301

COMMITTEEMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 12
at 7:30 p.m.

CIO HALL, Erie Blvd. and
Liberty St., Schenectady

Special Order of Business

To nominate candidates for general offices, subject to approval of Nov. 17 special membership meeting.

To appoint tellers and an election committee.

Job Values in Welded Products Studied by Shop Committeemen

A committee of shop committeemen, representing welded products workers in Bldgs. 52 and 66, opened a series of discussions on job values in the various occupations in the welded products division, and other problems, at a meeting at the union hall Monday.

Leo Jandreau, business agent, met with the group. Occupations discussed were assembling, welding, layout, burning and chipping. The committee expressed the general feeling that on all jobs in the

GE 'Efficiency' Bogs Down Again

The General Electric Company is doing such a sloppy job in its check-off of union dues that the Local 301 office reported 811 cases of arrears last week.

Adam Boss, in charge of 301 records, sent the list to GE with a warning that it is the last time the union will do the work which the company is supposed to do, under the contract, and for which the company is paid.

"There is no excuse for such carelessness and delay on the part of GE", Brother Boss said. "The company has exactly the same information we have. Time after time we have complained about the backlog of dues payments.

"As a result of the GE inefficiency, hundreds of 301 members will have double deductions of dues from their wages this week."

Grievance Session Today in New York

A two-day meeting with national GE officials on 24 Schenectady grievances will start today in New York City.

Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, and two other Board members, William A. Stewart of Turbine and Charles Ferris, Heat, Light and Power, went to New York tonight for the sessions.

Deadlocked in local grievance discussions, the cases had to be taken up with GE on a national level. They involve a wide number of jobs, departments and problems.

Other subjects taken up included shortages and rates paid to welders while in school for their annual test.

The committee decided that the make-up rate for shortages should be based on average earnings instead of on the job rate as at present.

In connection with the annual test of skill required of welders, the committee took the position that the welder should get average earnings for the day he loses from the shop each year while in the company school. At present he gets a special date rate for this time lost from the shop. This day rate is less than average earnings.

Representatives attending the first meeting were Harry Bayless, Martin S. Burgess, James Cognetta, Hugh Mackey, President Andrew Peterson, Ivan Shultes, Ralph D. Pipe, John Carruthers, Raymond De Wire, Harvey Giacinto, J. L. Ohlidal and Albert Schneider.

LOCAL 301

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, Nov. 17
at 2:30 p.m.

CIO HALL, Erie Blvd. and
Liberty St., Schenectady

Special Order of Business

To approve, reject, change or add to the list of candidates for general offices nominated by Nov. 12 committeemen's meeting.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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Dewey Brashear Ray Flanigan
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Building Trades Firm in Demands

GE Building trades workers, indignant at the company's attitude toward their problems and wage inequities, gathered in a big meeting at the Local 301 hall Monday night and voted unanimously to demand a raise of 10 cents an hour, retroactive to May 31, for all the building tradesmen and their helpers. The only exceptions to the new demand are the steamfitters and electricians who won their 10-cent raise through union action before the War Labor Board.

Demands Increased

The meeting action represented an increase over previous demands. It represented the members' resentment at the company's offer, in one month of bargaining, of only five cents an hour for some crafts, nothing for others, and minor raises for the helpers conditioned on the union's dropping its apprenticeship proposal.

The meeting also voted unanimously to press the fight for an apprenticeship course in all the building crafts. Speakers stressed the importance of such a system to the helpers, and particularly the returned veterans.

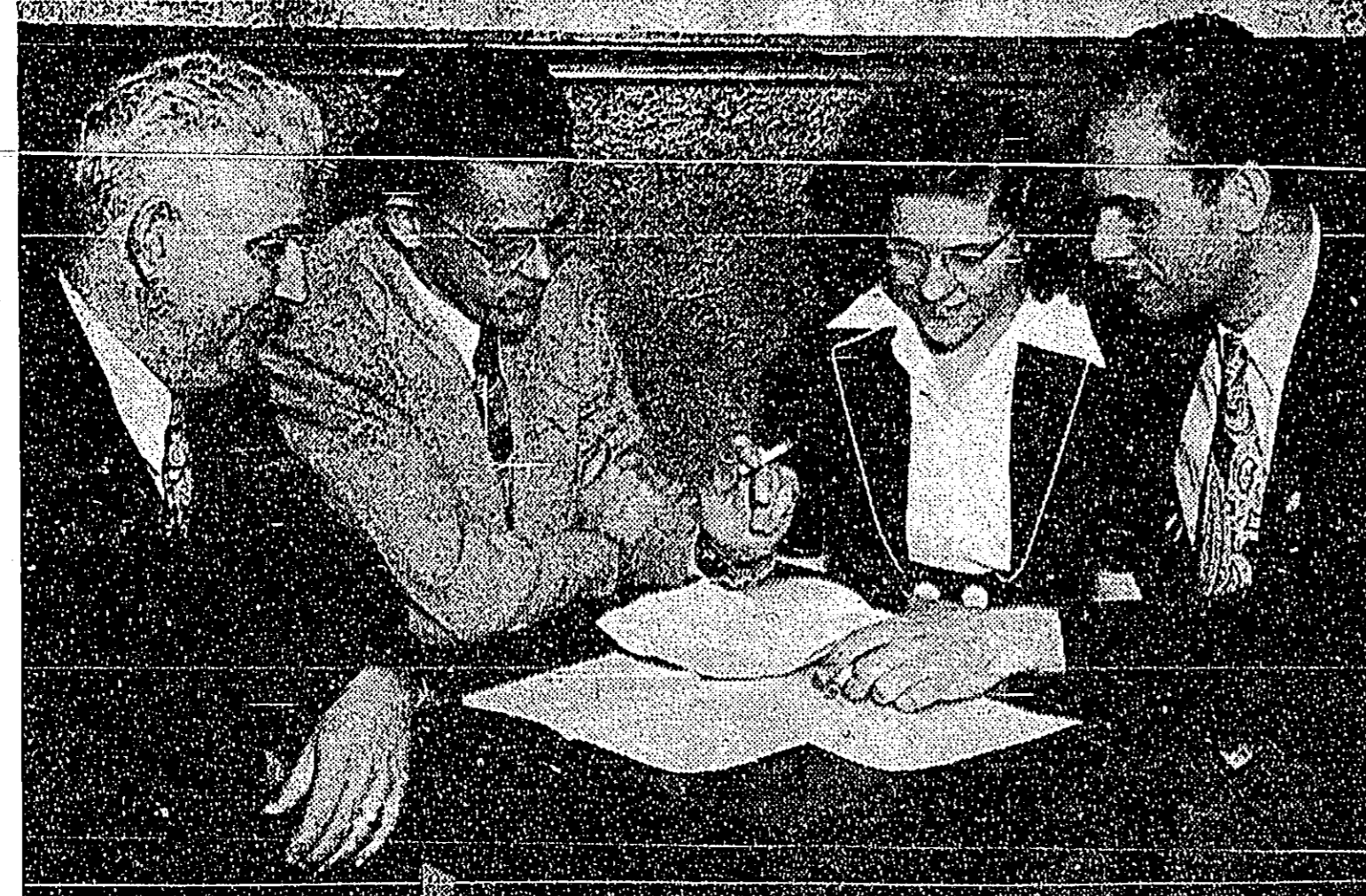
A number of members declared from the floor that the tradesmen were ready to go "all the way" to win their wage and apprenticeship demands.

The meeting also voted to back up the Steamfitters' union in their demands for pay for time lost by some of their members recently when steamfitting work was given to an outside contractor.

Aid for Blind Veteran

Shop committeemen have been notified by the Executive Board that all money collected for the Donald Weekes' fund should be turned in at the union office to be presented in a lump sum in the name of the local. The Board at a previous meeting voted \$50 for the fund being raised in Schenectady to aid this blind World War II veteran.

Map New Drive to Sign Up GE Office Workers



Leaders of the Office Workers Organizing Committee who conferred with President Andrew Peterson and Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301 on new plans for the organizing campaign. Left to right, Thomas Herkenham, George Bason, Dorothy Fernandez and George Katz. Jerry Steinberg, field organizer, was also on the committee talking with the 301 officers.

GE Still Manages To Keep Running

You can tell your friends not to waste any sympathy on the General Electric Co. for its newspaper claims about making only \$404,109 profits during the nine months ended Sept. 30.

For the real background on GE finances, look over this information, from the national UE office.

Profits of GE for the six months ended Sept. 30 were \$14,800,000.

Strike Loss Subtracted

In arriving at the misleading figure of \$404,109 for January through September profits, GE subtracted the loss it suffered as the result of the nine-week strike which it forced on the union, a loss of \$28,000,000 in the first quarter of the year.

GE didn't include in its figure the huge credit for tax refunds it will receive under the income tax laws. The company has admitted this refund is expected to be at least \$19,000,000.

In estimating profits, GE, like other corporations, can make the figure suit itself by putting too high values on the supplies and materials used in producing goods.

Another favorite business trick is to list "capital items", like permanent improvements and expansions, as ordinary

Election News — Later

Polls were still open when EU News went to press this week so the paper can't contain any news or comment about election results. There was a big turnout of PAC volunteers to round up voters and serve as watchers.

301 on Radio

Remember, Local 301 presents its radio program at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over Station WSNY.

expenses in figuring the year's record. Naturally such book-keeping can make profits look smaller.

16% Profit Guaranteed

The latest OPA bill gives GE plenty of profit guarantee. This bill, effective as of last summer, gives any industry enough price increase to cover all costs plus the same percentage of profit it made on sales in 1940. In the year 1940 the electrical industry had a profit rate of 16 per cent. That means GE can clear 16 per cent on 1946 sales, with government blessing. The 1946 sales are now running at the annual rate of \$725,000,000, a nice healthy amount.

But you don't find any of these facts mentioned in the GE newspaper complaint about "low" earnings.

Lists Under Preparation In Membership Campaign

Lists of non-members for the fifth and sixth sections of the Local 301 membership drive are now being made up. The fifth section consists of Bldgs. 85, 93, 97 and 109, represented on the Executive Board by Eugene Le Moine.

The Board member for the sixth section, Bldgs. 81 and 89, is Dewey Brashear.

Adam Boss, in charge of the check-up on records and lists in the union office, said lists of non-members are complete for the second section, Bldgs. 53, 65 and 69, and for Bldgs. 49 and 60 in the third section. Some work still remains to be done on these lists in the fourth section, Bldgs. 68, 70-J, 72, 76, 80, 227, 238 and 241.

Committeemen who have not yet turned in their lists of department employees in any of these buildings are asked by the Organization Committee to do so promptly.

Application cards are coming in daily, Brother Boss reported.

UE Calls Conference On Wage Program

(Continued from Page 1)

butter by one-and-a-half pounds a week. Ninety per cent or 455 workers cut down on buying clothing.

Almost half the workers questioned have been forced to dig into their savings. In many cases they had to use savings to get along even after reducing the amount of food and clothing bought.

"Nor could savings be expected to finance the living expenses of these workers except for the shortest period of time," the analysis of the survey states.

Savings Are Small

"Even with the peak of wartime earnings behind them, only 135 workers reported savings of more than \$300. These workers certainly could not be counted upon to purchase the tremendous quantities of electrical appliances and radios presently coming off the production line."

The wage conference will follow the UE system of basing discussions and recommendations on concrete figures gathered throughout the industry. All actions of the conference will be referred to the locals for approval before any proposal is made to the management.

Activities Chairman



Lanson L. Cole, who is the new chairman of the Local 301 Activities Committee, recently married a member of the committee, the former Edith Bame, Bldg. 89. They went to Florida on their honeymoon. Brother Cole works out of Bldg. 53, Maintenance and Repair. He succeeded Foster Campbell as Activities chairman.

CIO Radio Program To Discuss Strikes

"Why People Strike" will be the subject of the Capital District CIO Council radio broadcast next week. Watch the papers for time and date.

Speakers will be Anne Mehalick, a striker and shop steward of Local 36, United Furniture Workers of America, at Granville, and three veterans of recent Capital District strikes: William Mastriani, Local 301; William Hyatt, Local 410, International Fur and Leather Workers, at Ballston Spa, and Michael Buszewski, Local 2312, United Steelworkers of America, Albany.

Last week's speakers were Leo Jandreau, Local 301; Sylvester Cunningham, president Local 814, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Troy, and Anthony Barbieri, president of Local 2054, USA.

Toolmakers' Case

A four-point proposal for a general increase in wages of toolmakers has been sent to the GE management, after approval by a committee of toolmakers and the 301 Executive Board.

GE Carries Out Nov. 5 Closing

In the face of warnings on violating the UE contract and the intent of the State Election Law, the General Electric Co. closed down the plant Election Day at noon, without afternoon pay, for first shift workers.

Workers who handed in written requests for two hours off with pay were assigned two hours in the morning. The company said they would be paid for these two hours, but would not be paid for the afternoon.

The morning hours were assigned without system, some people getting the first two hours, some the last two and some in-between.

"The entire proceeding showed the General Electric's utter disregard of the intention of the law," Leo Jandreau, union business agent, said.

"The company wasn't interested in maintaining production or efficiency. We don't hear the company shouting about lost man-hours in this situation. It arranged the schedule, to be inconvenient and costly to itself, and to the workers."

Local 301 is pressing a charge of contract violation and demanding pay for the time lost through the company's action.

How Do They Ever Dig Them All Up?

The Socialist Party of Schenectady joined the attack on Local 301 last week by presenting as a speaker a Socialist organizer, Joseph Massidda, with a bad labor background.

Schenectady newspapers headlined Massidda as "anti-red" and gave plenty of space to his attack on UE.

They didn't mention, of course, that Massidda was fired by the CIO Leather Workers as an organizer after he admitted stealing union funds and other charges.

Later he joined the UE local at Lynn. The local had to ask for his resignation as a shop steward. He spoke on the platform in Schenectady with Norman Thomas, Socialist leader.

No White Paper Yet

For the next few weeks EU News will have to continue being printed on canary color paper. No white paper in sight — not even newsprint.