

Date Set for UE Election

Balloting for UE Local 301 officers will begin Thursday, December 13, starting at noon and continuing through Friday, December 14, 6:00 P.M.

Votes will be cast in voting machines at Union Hall, 301 Liberty St. The announcement was made by the Election Committee, John Saccocio, Chairman; Michael Rakvica, Secretary.

The voting machines will be opened and checked by the City Election Commissioner.

In accordance with the local constitution, the eligibility of nominees has been checked and they have been notified by registered mail to state whether they accept or decline. The following have accepted their nomination and are candidates:

For President

- James Cognetta Bldg. 52
- John Green Bldg. 66

For Vice-President

- Dewey Brashear Bldg. 89
- Joe Kelly Bldg. 16
- Marvin Rumrill Bldg. 273
- Roy Schaeffer Bldg. 60

For Recording Secretary

- Rudy Rissland Bldg. 273

For Asst. Recording Sec.

- Frank D'Amico Bldg. 49
- Antoinette Restina Bldg. 12

For Treasurer

- Larry Gebo Bldg. 273
- Henry Kaminski Bldg. 68
- Helen Quirini Bldg. 81

For Business Agent

- Leo Jandreau

For Chief Shop Steward

- Joe Alois Bldg. 273
- William Christman Bldg. 18
- Arthur Dieshner Bldg. 64
- William Mastriani Bldg. 73

For Trustees

- Nick Fioritti Bldg. 81
- William Garrison Bldg. 73
- Edward Luberda Bldg. 17
- William J. McCall Bldg. 273
- Miles Moon Bldg. 85
- Harold Simpson Bldg. 28
- Julius Weisman Bldg. 273
- Joseph Witbeck Bldg. 69

For Sgt. at Arms

- Joseph Saccocio Bldg. 52
- Owen B. Phillips Bldg. 285

For Guide

- Mario Bagnetto Bldg. 52

Declined for Following Offices

Dewey Brashear declined the nomination for president. Helen Quirini, Joseph Kernaghan, Fay Hildreth, Al Riechert and Fred Pacelli declined the vice-presidential nomination. William Christman, Esther Porter and Helen Quirini declined for recording secretary. Marvin Rumrill declined for assistant recording secretary.

Joseph Witbeck and William Garrison declined the nomination for treasurer. James J. White declined for Sgt. at Arms. Tom McGrath and Floyd Thomas declined for trustees.

Bulletin — Reports from Board Members reveal that sentiment for adoption of the Union's plan of action calling for a schedule of work stoppages is running 85 percent and better. These reports are based on meetings and votes already taken on the day and night shifts. The plan calls for weekly one-day stoppage starting on November 26 and increased pressure until management recognizes the grievances and needs of its employees.

Buy! Buy! Buy!

with what??

Tremendous Sale

What is a Sale? A chance to pay more this week for goods that sold for less last week.

MESSAGE TO HOUSEWIVES

When your husband's paycheck was cut by 2 percent due to the rise in his income tax, that can rise in his income tax, that cancelled out all but one-half of one percent of GE's 2½ percent wage offer. That one-half percent would give you and your family from 24 to 40 cents more a week to meet all the new sales taxes, the taxes to come and the rising prices. Can you do it? Of course not! You would have to scrape the bottom of your savings, if you have any, or go deeper into debt. You and the family would have to do without things you need and give up out things you have. **ONLY YOU DON'T HAVE TO. GE employees are well able — and determined — to get more money from a company well able to pay. It will take a fight but the American living standard is well worth fighting for.**

Meat

The price of meat, processed food and candy is going up—up—up under a week-old OPS order. Last week "Life" magazine featured an article on "How to Stretch Your Food Dollar." The same OPS order permits the price of rubber products to go up. Even so, there's not much stretch in the food dollar, now worth about 44c.

Household Appliances

Hardware prices, as well as the price of household appliances, will be pyramided by wholesalers' and retailers' mark-ups as a result of the OPS order.

Furniture

See above.

Automobile Parts

Now that the recent tax measure shot up the price of automobiles, the OPS has increased the price of automobile parts. Gasoline went up, too. Happy motoring!

THE OPS ORDER PERMITS PRICE RISES ON ONE-FOURTH OF THE NATION'S GOODS

It's only a matter of time before all consumer goods follow the upward march.

BUT WHAT ABOUT WAGES? Take a hint from prices!

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, November 23, 1951

GE IN ULTIMATUM!

PRESS UNFAIR LABOR CHARGE IN RIGGI CASE

UE Local 301 has informed the Labor Board that it will not withdraw its charge of an unfair labor practice against GE in the case of Shop Steward Josephine Riggi who was laid off for union activity.

Although Steward Riggi has been compensated for the time lost, the company has not admitted to the unfair labor practice, one of the worst in the book.

The union has told the Labor Board that it intends to press the case. According to NLRB regulations, a company found guilty of an unfair labor practice must prominently post a statement that it will not repeat the offense.

Purpose of this notice is to free the air of the tensions caused by the particular case in question.

The Riggi case was the immediate cause of the breaking off of grievance meetings between the union and the company.

NOTICE — Joint meeting of Members and Stewards Monday, Dec. 3, Local 301 Hall. Second Shift 1:30 P.M. First and Third Shifts 7:30 P.M.

December 3 Is Deadline For Action On Wage Offer

GE officials told the UE Negotiating Committee on November 15 and 16 that it would give the union some 48 hours to accept or reject the company's 2½ percent wage offer. The UE negotiators said they would take the outrageous ultimatum back to the membership and give the members' answer to the

Members To Answer The Take-it or Leave-it Offer Board Votes To Postpone Stoppage

The UE 301 executive board voted on Nov. 20 to refer to the members the company's "take it or leave it" wage offer, which GE has said it would withdraw if it is not accepted by a Dec. 3 deadline agreed to by the UE-GE conference board and the company. The membership will have an opportunity to express its will before the deadline.

The board also voted to postpone for another week the plant-wide stoppage scheduled for this Monday in view of some improvement in the settlement of grievances.

The company's 2½ percent proposition has officially been before the union since Sept. 19. In recent negotiation sessions the company agreed to drop the escalator provision but to include the cost of living adjustment in the wage offer, bringing it to 3½ percent. In money this is the same as the original offer of approximately five to eight cents an hour, the lower-paid getting the smaller increase.

company on December 3 following a meeting of the UE-GE Conference Board on the same day.

The company indicated that if its offer is turned down, it would be withdrawn. This would not materially change the picture.

With the approval of the members, the union has been asking for a 15 cents straight hourly increase, five cents for inequities, improved vacations, pensions, insurance.

Increases Inequities

"Not only does 2½ percent fail to meet the situation posed by rising prices and taxes, the UE Negotiating Committee again pointed out last week, but the percentage form of the offer makes wage inequities worse than ever.

Those who earn less get less under the percentage system. Management displayed an even tougher insistence, if possible, on a percentage increase. Management also refused to admit that wage inequities of women, skilled trades and day workers were part of the wage re-opener.

The UE negotiators felt there was no use in continuing the talks which started September 19. A meeting of the UE-GE Conference Board last Saturday confirmed this view and set December 3 as the date for a final answer to the company on its ultimatum. Union members here and throughout the chain will be consulted before that date.

Face Big Layoffs In Industrial Control

The prospect of taking a week or more off without pay between now and Christmas faces hundreds of workers in Industrial Control. Up to 50 percent in some groups were notified on Monday that they would have to lose a week's pay as the company moved to rotate jobs. Low seniority people are threatened with layoffs.

Management says it is all because of high inventory. In other words, Management has over-produced in relation to sales and is demanding that

the workers pay for what Leo Jandreau, UE 301 Business Agent, calls "poor administration."

No concern for a "dreary Christmas" is being voiced by Management in this pre-holiday crisis. But it will be felt in the Christmas stockings of many children and on the tables of many homes.

Management notified the union on Monday that because of high inventory, it proposed to lay off low seniority people and rotate the work among the rest. The union countered with the demand that the company stop hiring

at the gates, eliminate overtime in the division and find jobs for people in which they can make out at least as well as before. The company was told that no one should be subjected to a long schedule of rotation.

As management moved to make up for "poor administration" at the expense of its employees, many bitterly recalled that in its propaganda against the strike vote, the company had pretended concern for a "dreary Christmas."

We can see just how hypocritical that was!

A SURVEY

Grievance Picture Much Better, But—
Plenty of Room Left for Improvement

A week ago Tuesday, the UE 301 Executive Board met with Works Manager Lewis J. Male and won from him a number of promises to settle grievances.

Grievances, climaxed by the laying off of a steward for union activity, were at an all-time high when the meeting took place. The union had broken off negotiations on the Thursday before the meeting.

Also leading up to the session with Male was the 3-day stoppage in Turbine, the announcement of a series of plant-wide stoppages and the threat of a general strike in the GE chain.

Conditional upon the carrying out of Management's promises, the Executive Board postponed for one week the stoppage scheduled for last Monday. The Electrical Union News has made a partial survey of Board Members to get their opinion on progress, if any. The views of Board Members on the current grievance picture follows:

★ ★ ★
Bill Christman, Bldgs. 11, 18—
"We are again able to talk to foremen, assistant foremen and settle the general run of grievances, although wage rates still have to go to Bldg. 41. For three months I couldn't settle anything, now we're making some progress. I credit our plan of weekly stoppages for the change."

★ ★ ★
Larry Gebo (3rd Shift)—"Cases I've gone in on are coming out satisfactorily. Where before a general night foreman wouldn't spend time going over cases, some now stay as late as 10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. going over grievances. The Turbine stoppage and our 'plan of action' has a lot to do with it. We must still hold a club, still make a fight."

★ ★ ★
Fay Hildreth, Bldgs. 269, 50—"I would say we are still getting something of a run-around. In my book, foremen still don't have enough authority to give definite answers. I'm able to get a fair amount of satisfaction from top supervision in Bldg. 269. But the company still refuses to move on a case, for example, involving women in the Lighthouse Tube Section who perform skilled work at \$1.29, less than the rate for common labor. There's been no change at all in Bldg. 59."

★ ★ ★
Ralph Vitallo, Bldg. 273—"A change for the better. Foremen and general foremen are taking a more reasonable tack. We had been trying to get the "A" rate for two men for six months. The other day it came through. Somebody else was entitled to the "A" rate. We got it for him in one day. I account for this by the walkout and solidarity of Turbine, the meeting between Male and the Executive Board following the announcement of a plan of stoppage."

★ ★ ★
Bill Stewart, Bldg. 273—"So far it's pretty good. If it doesn't con-

tinue that way, there will be trouble."

★ ★ ★
Jim De Maseo, Bldgs. 43, 49, 61—
"Higher supervision seems to know the score better but can't seem to settle grievances at foreman level. Still get the run-around from foremen. Settled a few cases

including equal distribution of overtime but welders' rates and a job rate cut are still hanging fire."

★ ★ ★
Fred Pacelli, Bldgs. 46, 89—
"We're getting a little more decent treatment but I'm not satisfied. In Bldgs. 46 people who do "B" work

(Continued on Page 4)

Better Settlements At
Management Level, Say
Asst. Business Agents

William Templeton, UE 301 Assistant Business Agent, sees a marked improvement in the processing of grievances at management level but finds the company won't move on rate cases involving day workers, skilled trades and women. Templeton said:

"We seem to be back where we were before the IUE-CIO disrupted our grievance procedure in 1949. At that time we were settling about fifty percent of the grievances in Bldg. 41 and roughly two-thirds of total grievances were being settled in the shops. That's about where we are today. We can't say the company has loosened up. It still won't move on women's rates and continues to be tough on job rates in general."

Fred Sheehan, Assistant Business Agent, also finds definite improvement at management level.

"We're not getting an arbitrary turn-down on cases at the present time, whereas for 18 months we were battling at a stone wall. Where we used to get an automatic "no" on the cases we brought in, we are now getting some through. An example is upgrading. We couldn't get anywhere with them in recent months; now we can report progress. But, at that, the company isn't giving anything away. It's slowed down on contract violations, mostly."

Serafim Pita, Assistant Business Agent, says that not all promises made by management are being kept. He cited as an example company promises concerning the lack of work situation.

"In Bldg. 40 motor generator division," he noted, "the company has been sending people home these past months but had promised to clear up the situation by the end of the month. Meanwhile, we find management bringing new people into motor generators while sending old people home. That's not clearing up a situation; it's making it worse."

UE LOCAL
WINS 19½c
XMAS PACKAGE

Workers at Dahlstrom Metallic Doors, represented by UE Local 307, have just won a 19½ cents settlement following strike action. The agreement, ratified by the membership on November 16, is completely above the Wage Stabilization Board wage ceiling.

The package well in time for Christmas includes a 10c an hour wage increase, a Xmas bonus in the amount of four percent of each worker's earnings for last year, and an upward cost of living adjustment in four months. The cost of living clause, by agreement, can go only one way—up.

For the first time, workers with 20 years' service are to receive three weeks vacation. The strikers get their full vacation pay this year despite time lost in the strike and the company agrees that the strike will not affect next year's vacation schedule.

Contract provides for improved grievance and arbitration procedure and additional protection to workers in case of layoffs.

Last year's wage increase brought the Dahlstrom workers up to the wage ceiling and all of the 19½ cents is above the ceiling.

CALL FOR FIGHT
ON WOMEN'S
RATES

UE 301 Executive Board Members are instructing stewards to make a special drive against discriminatory rates, especially in those cases where women perform the same work as men but at a lower rate.

GE's obnoxious practice of low-rating women, has been condemned by the U. S. Government as well as by the union. Correction of this inequity is a major demand in the current fight on the wage re-opener.

Throughout the Schenectady Works and in the GE chain, women are performing skilled work at 9 cents below the rate for common labor. UE is asking that the rate for common labor be the floor for women's rates. A nickel for the correction of other inequities is a justified demand.

The union holds that some inequities in women's rates, day workers' and skilled trades' rates can be corrected locally.

GE Expands At Expense
Of Wages, Conditions

General Electric has announced that it will spend \$450 million on new plants and equipment in the coming year. At the start of World War II, GE had 43 plants. It came out of the war with 107 plants. Nice profiteering!

Last week, GE was granted \$50 million in tax concessions by the Federal Government to build a plant in Louisville, Ky., where the company plans to move its refrigerator production. These tax concessions to big business result in higher taxes for working people. We not only make GE's profits but help pay with our taxes for GE expansion into low wage, open shop areas.

The pattern of GE expansion tends to undermine the wage struc-

ture and the livelihood of the workers in organized shops.

A major UE demand in negotiations is for the abolition of pay differences as between plants. Until this demand is met or the network of open shops is organized, the only way to protect our wage standards is by adjusting our wages to the real cost of living (including taxes) and by improving our standards of living.

It is not enough to say that the company is not yielding on wages and related issues. It is attacking all the time, by building runaway plants, by cutting rates and conditions in union plants. In such a situation you either fight back or get pushed back. UE believes in answering attack with counter-attack.

INTERWORKS DRIVERS
COMING HOME TO UE

Interworks truck drivers who left the UE fold last September 1950 and joined the AFL Teamsters union have petitioned for a new NLRB election so that they can come back to UE.

The truck men learned in one year with the teamsters that only a union which represents GE workers regardless of craft can give them the protection they need.

We're glad they're coming back!

THE N. Y. TIMES
STATES THE CASE

UE's arguments against the employer-rigged cost of living index, the wage freeze and for substantial wage increases have been taken up by the country's labor unions, as the New York Times of last Sunday bears witness.

"The unions gave clear warning that they were prepared for battle," an editorial article stated. "Labor's dissatisfaction involves the course of wages and prices."

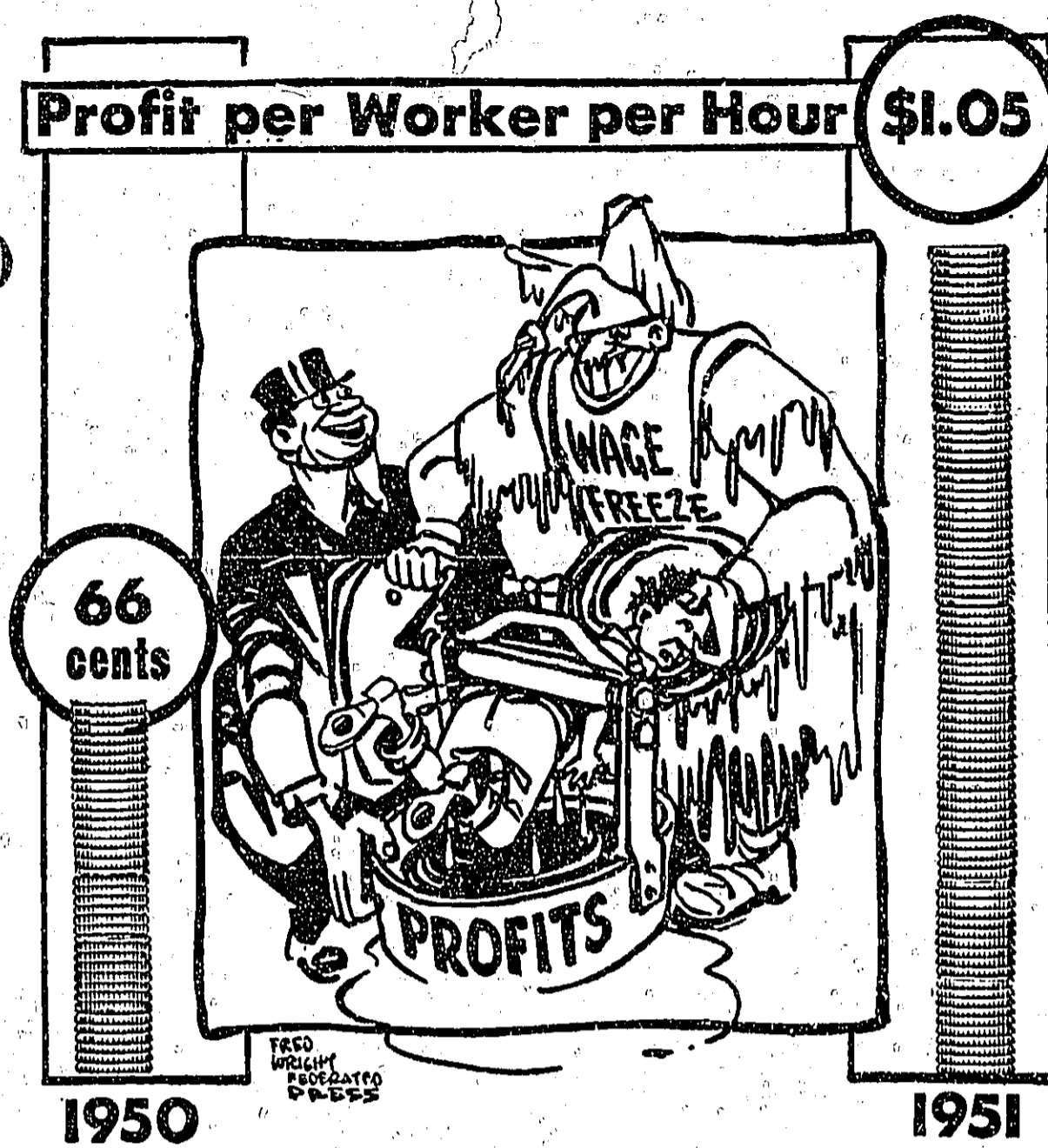
In an almost word for word re-statement of UE's arguments for a real pay hike from General Electric, the article goes on to say that "labor . . . argues that the Government's gauge of living costs, the consumer price index, does not reflect the full increase in living costs; that no allowance is made for labor's increased productivity; that unions, organized to improve the workers' standard of living, cannot accept a long-term freeze in the relationship between wages and living costs."

As a concise statement of the UE's position, that's not bad at all.

PAY FREEZE
UNDER FIRE

There is general agreement among union officials, government authorities and the press that wage controls could not survive a determined onslaught by unions in major industries. An all-out wage fight around the first of the year, according to the New York Times of last Sunday, could set "a new wage pattern" in the nation.

In the post-war period, UE set the pace for labor with three rounds of wage increases. UE called for a concerted drive by all unions against the wage freeze at its last national convention. One million organized steelworkers and a majority of the UE locals in the electrical industry are among those who say they are ready. The irony of the situation is that the CIO was instrumental in handing the Wage Freeze Board the powers it enjoys. While forced to denounce the Board at the recent CIO convention, Murray still has three representatives on the Board.

IUE Bookkeeper Exposes
Rackets of Carey Clique

Mildred Jordan, for fourteen years the office bookkeeper in Local 202, Springfield Westinghouse last week blew the lid off the not so pretty racketeering of IUE-CIO officials who took over the Local in 1949.

Mrs. Jordan was fired from her job four weeks ago by IUE President Hartley. She took her case to the membership, and the membership called a Special Meeting. All the IUE officers were there plus Leo Benoit, IUE big shot appointed by Governor Dever to replace Al Coulthard as Massachusetts Labor Relations Commissioner during the 1949 and 1950 disruption by IUE.

Mildred Jordan told how Benoit, a Carey lieutenant, had used her time, the funds and facilities of

Tool makers throughout the country are putting on so much heat for higher wages that even the Wage Freeze Board is listening, according to the October 15 issue of the American Machinist.

The management viewpoint, the magazine says, is that "if higher rates are authorized for the craftsmen, the movement will trickle right down the line."

Nothing wrong with that! Especially in Schenectady!

the Local Union and his own time campaigning with politicians to get the commissionership. She told how Benoit had taken \$6,000.00 of the Local's money and put it in a teapot in his home. She told how Benoit had ordered her to record herself as working overtime in the Union office in order to provide money to pay newspaper reporters. She told how Benoit had forced her to contribute money to make up for "shortages" in the Local's funds. She told of being forced to pay money out of the Local's funds to package store for parties for CIO officials.

Dirty Linen

When Mrs. Jordan had finished, Benoit stood up and denied everything. He said that Mrs. Jordan was not a very good bookkeeper. One of Benoit's gang, Francis Bellerive, stood up and said that "I spent many hours in Benoit's cellar in order to get this Local to go IUE-CIO. If there's any dirty linen, I want to be washed too."

Over three hours of the meeting was taken up with the exposure of the corruption engendered by IUE-CIO. The membership replaced Hartley as chairman halfway through the meeting. And at the end they reinstated Mrs. Jordan by a vote of five to one with all back pay for the time that Hartley had fired her.

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Treasurer—Henry Kaminski
Vice-President—Joseph Mangino
Recording Secretary—John P. Green
President—William Kelly
Chief Shop Steward—James Cognetta
Business Agent—Leo Jandreau
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.