



Congress Urged By UE To End Wage Control

Bridgeport, Conn.—Back to UE was the verdict of GE powerhouse workers in an NLRB election. The vote was 32 for UE, 1 for IUE-CIO and 3 for neither union. It was the first election in this GE plant since IUE-CIO split the local two years ago.

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Berkeley, Cal.—International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union members in Cutter Laboratories defeated CIO Oil Union raiders by a vote of 301 to 111.

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Fort Wayne, Ind.—Another eight cent increase on top of a general increase won Jan. 1 has been won by maintenance workers at Magnavox, members of UE Local 910.

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San Francisco—A raid by CIO Oil Workers was defeated by members of the AFL Electrical Union among linemen and outside employees of the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in northern California. The AFL got 5,072 votes to the CIO's 3,158.

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Pittsburgh—UE Local 624 members have completed their quota of \$5 each for their Fighting Fund.

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Newark, N. J.—Increases of \$3.50 to \$6.50 a week for plant department workers and \$3.50 to \$5 in the accounting department was won by 6,000 members of the New Jersey Telephone Workers after a one day strike against the New Jersey Telephone Co.

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Ashtabula, Ohio—UE Local 733 members at Ward Products Corp. have won a 11 cent an hour increase retroactive to Jan. 7 in their newly won two year contract.

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New York—A three day strike against the Isbrandtsen Steamship Co. in four ports resulted in a new two year contract for members of the AFL Masters, Mates & Pilots.

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Tonawanda, N. Y.—UE Local 306 members at Spaulding Fibre, Inc., after 10 weeks of negotiations, climaxed by a week of shop action, have won a 7½ cent wage package in a new one year contract.

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Washington—Wage Stabilization Board approval was given for a 19 cent an hour raise for 36,000 members of AFL Teamsters.

The Defense Production Act, on the basis of economic data for 1950-1951, is taking from those who have too little and giving to those who have much, UE Pres. Albert J. Fitzgerald has asserted in testimony submitted to the U. S. Senate and House Banking and Currency committees, which are now considering legislation to renew the act which set up the wage freeze.

Fitzgerald called for an end to wage control, the beginning of effective price control and a return to free collective bargaining between labor and management in any new legislation enacted.



FITZGERALD The UE leader quoted government figures to show that average corporate profits rose 7.5 percent from 1950 to 1951 to an annual rate of \$44½ billion before taxes, while at the same time, he added:

"The spendable average weekly earnings of production workers in 1939 dollars show a decided drop from December, 1950 to December, 1951. A worker with three dependents, whose take-home pay in December of 1950 was worth \$33.77 in 1939 dollars, by December of 1951 had suffered a loss of 1.7 percent to \$3.19.

He asserted that "a year and a half of experience under the Defense Production Act has given indisputable evidence of the fact that the act has operated to the detriment of the welfare of the American people and that a program of absorbing "excess purchasing power" is absurd in the face of the fact there is growing unemployment in consumer industries because the workers don't have enough purchasing power to buy essentials for living.

The UE Steward's Dream

A man knocked at the Heavenly Gate,
His face was scarred and old;
He stood before the man of fate,
For admission to the fold.

"What have you done," St. Peter asked,
"To gain admission here?"
"I've been a UE Steward," he said,
"For many and many a year."

The pearly gates swung open wide,
St. Peter touched the bell—
"Come in and choose your harp," he said,
"You've had your share of hell."

—From the UE STEWARD



SETTING A COURSE. UE leaders, who addressed the '301' Stewards Wage Conference last Monday, are seen above in an exchange of views following the main report delivered by UE Genl. Secy.-Treas. Julius Emspak. Seen l. to r. are: Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent; James J. Matles, UE Director of Organization and Emspak.

Stewards Chart Program To Change GE's 1% Tune

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explaining the facts and getting ready for the fight ahead.

Jandreau termed GE's offer an attempt "to scuttle collective bargaining" and "there's no limit as to how far they'll attempt to go

Leading Senator Hits Humphrey Hearings

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D, Minn.), who has been urging legislation that would have the government "select" unions for workers on the ground of barring so-called "communist unions," has been urged to drop his witch-hunt by a man who outranks him on his own Senate committee.

Humphrey is chairman of a subcommittee of the Senate Labor Committee, of which Sen. James E. Murray (D, Mont.) is chairman.

Murray last week, in a letter to a Mine, Mill & Smelter Worker Union member stated he had urged Humphrey to drop his hearings and pledged he would "continue my efforts to prevent this unnecessary course."

if we don't halt them." He blamed IUE-CIO's "escalator" approach to general wage increases, based on BLS figures, as playing into GE's hands and urged continued UE appeals to all GE workers for a common fight against GE. He lauded the skilled craftsmen's demonstration in a recent snowstorm as showing the fighting spirit needed by all GE workers.

Emspak called GE's offer "actually an attack on this Union and all unions in the GE chain," and termed GE's "super-exploitation" of women, with a 39 cent gap in average wages between women and men, a threat to every male worker in GE.

He urged visits to congressmen during the Easter recess to ask repeal of the Defense Production Act, which set up the wage freeze. He said Sen. Humphrey's attempt to have the government "select" unions for workers, regardless of their choice, wasn't a far step from trying to set up "a one party government."

Matles declared that events have confirmed UE's position that the wage freeze was anti-labor and would eliminate collective bargaining—while the labor leaders who've participated with the bosses and politicians on the freeze are now after two years just "discovering" that it won't work. "To the extent we now make progress," he said, "is the extent to which we unitedly fight every day to achieve our objectives," and "UE members know that their Union won't engage in any skulduggery with bosses or politicians, but will be an organization in which they can conduct such a fight all the time."

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ROME, N. Y.—Workers at GLF Cooperative Service Inc. have voted for UE to represent them. The NLRB election margin was 8 to 2.

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Portland, Ore.—Charging that employers are trying to provoke a lumber strike by refusing to even meet with the union, the CIO Woodworkers announced "they'll get strike action if that's what they want. Early returns on the strike vote . . . show a 98 percent sentiment in favor of strike if no reasonable offers are made."

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New York, N. Y.—UE Local 1227 members working at Wades-Kohinoor Co. have won an 11½ cent an hour package increase.

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San Francisco—15,000 AFL carpenters in this area went on strike to win a 15 cent increase, which would bring them to the \$2.60 an hour level already approved by the wage freeze board for other building trades workers.

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Philadelphia — UE Local 155 members, working at F. C. Castelli Co., conducted a three week strike and won a 20 cent an hour increase for tool makers, 8 to 19 cents for all time workers, 5 cent base rate increase for piece workers, with old piece work rates increased by the same amount.

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Cincinnati—Hugo Ernst, president of the Hotel & Restaurant Workers, the AFL's fourth largest union, has asserted that "nobody, but NOBODY can 'win' an atomic war" and urged "collective bargaining" among nations to prevent a third world war.

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Wausau, Wis.—The CIO Council, AFL Trades Council and Farmers Union have all taken newspaper advertisements to express their support of UE Local 1113 members who are out on strike against the Marathon Electric Co. Hundreds of townspeople have turned out on the UE picketlines.

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Detroit—Members of UAW-CIO Local 3 at the Dodge plant have authorized the taking of a strike vote by 18,000 members to fight speed-up.

Setting the Pace

Leading the way in building a '301' Fighting Fund to have in readiness for any future fights with GE and defend the Union from any attacks are the following sections:

'301' Chief Shop Steward William Mastrianni reports 95 percent of his own group of 34 welders, spot welders and assemblymen in Bldg. 73A have paid up \$5 in full.

Steward Charles S. Scott, welded products in Bldg. 66, reports everyone but one is contributing towards his \$5 pledge.

Steward Julius Rispoli, spray and assembly in Bldg. 73A, reports 90 percent paid up in full out of a group of over 20.

Steward Vincent DeLorenzo, a '301' board member in Bldg. 69, milling machine, reports 90 percent paid out of 15.

Sidney Friedlander, '301' board member, reports Bldgs. 15, 17 and 19 have upped their total from \$365 to \$454.



NEW STEWARDS. Newly elected shop stewards to replace vacancies are seen being sworn in at the '301' membership meeting, April 7, by '301' Chief Shop Steward William Mastrianni (right). New stewards are sworn in at each monthly membership meeting.

Electrician Stoppage Hits GE 'Outside Work' Abuses

Electricians stopped work Thursday afternoon, April 3, and stayed out the entire next day in protest over GE's violation of a local agreement on utilization of its skilled building trades craftsmen.

Elect '301' Delegates To UE Wage Parley

The '301' membership meeting on April 7 elected its delegates to attend the National UE Wage Conference in Buffalo, N. Y. on April 19, 20. Those elected were:

John Smith, Bldg. 273 (second shift); William Mastrianni, 73A; Ray Ellis, 273; Vincent Palazek, 60; Charles Ferris, 63 and Helen Quirin, 81.

Also serving as delegates will be GE Conference Board members Leo Jandreau, business agent; James J. Cognetta, president and Fred Paelli, second shift board member.

Displaying the same spirit of militancy that toolmakers and building trades craftsmen showed on March 19 when they staged an hour-long demonstration in a driving snowstorm in support of the skilled workers' demand for a 45 cent increase, the nearly 300 electricians only "temporarily" called off their action when top level meetings were scheduled at the Works Manager's level.

The point at issue is GE's agreement that electricians will be fully utilized before any workers are brought in on work let out to outside contractors. Purpose of this agreement was to create sufficient work for electricians so that lower rated workers could move to the top of their class in grade progression.

Electricians also point out that they have to maintain any new work that's installed. A lack of knowledge by outside workers who install such work many times makes it more difficult for them to maintain it.

Also a burning issue is that hiring outside workers "to save money" by preventing overtime for GE's own electricians is a fallacy since, because their rates are lower than outside electricians, overtime would only amount to about the regular rate of the outside electricians.

The issue has been nearing a boiling point in recent months because GE has been letting more and more outside contracts. The GE "captive" electricians point out there's more than enough manpower among them for any work done to date—and that hiring outside electricians is a clear violation of the local agreement.

A meeting was held with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the Works Manager on Monday, April 7. A full investigation is being conducted, with another meeting set within a week with John Alexander, superintendent of grounds, buildings and general maintenance.

Ask Kearney Opposition To Wage Freeze Law

UE Local 301 is planning a visit to Congr. Patrick Kearney, at his Gloversville home, during the congressional Easter recess to urge his opposition to renewal of the Defense Production Act. '301' members have been urged to personally write like messages to Kearney.

The '301' membership meeting, April 7, approved such action, after Business Agent Leo Jandreau pointed out that this law is the source of the problem of the wage freeze.

"I believe in defense and making our country strong and self-sustaining," declared Jandreau, "but this law in the name of 'defense'

