

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA **UE LOCAL 301**

Vol. 11 — No. 1

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 2, 1953

Happy New Year

UE Local 301's 1952 officers wish to take this opportunity to join with the incoming slate of 1953 leaders to wish all of the members of the union, their families and friends a happy holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

In extending this greeting, they pledge to make the union's contribution to the welfare of its membership an ever increasing one. This past year has seen many gains in our fight to insure a decent living standard for every GE worker in Schenectady. We shall endeavor to consolidate these gains and to make new advances in the coming year.

This pledge is made with a confidence that working together, in the democratic UE way, we can achieve our goals.

Stewards to Elect Executive Board in January 6 Ballots

The final phase of UE Local 301's democratic processes for selecting its 1953 leadership will be completed Tuesday when the members of the executive board are chosen.

Board elections will take place in the union hall, with all of the recently elected shop stewards participating in the vote. The stewards in each section will come to the hall and cast ballots to pick one of their number to serve on the board. As presently constituted, the executive group consists of 32 members, including three selected in at-large capacities, one to represent women workers, one to represent 2nd shift and one to represent 3rd shift.

Along with the union officers, the executive board is the chief policy making group of the union. It meets twice monthly, with extra meetings called whenever an emergency situation arises. Decisions of the board are, of course, subject to membership review.

Inside of the shop, the board members are a key link between the union hall and the workers. Each board member is entrusted with seeing that union decisions are carried through in his or her section. Stewards in the section work closely with their board member.

Executive board members also play an important role in the union grievance machinery, since all grievances not satisfactorily settled at the steward-foreman level are referred to the board. They are then taken up with works management at the second level.

Actions by UE Force WSB To Approve Full Pay Hike

In a dramatic response to the strength shown by UE members across the nation, the Wage Stabilization Board last month quit its stalling and gave approval to the wage increase negotiated by the union with General Electric in September.

The suddenness in the shift of position by the wage freeze group was emphasized by the last issue of the EU News. When the UE Local 301 publication went to press on Wednesday, the WSB action still hadn't been taken. The newspaper's lead article was devoted to a detailed description of actions being taken by the UE locally and nationally to obtain the wage boost by Christmas.

However, by the time the newspaper was distributed on Friday morning, these actions by UE had paid off and the WSB approval of our wage increase was a matter of record.

The OK means that all of the 19,500 workers in Schenectady represented by UE will have from 7c

to 12c added to their hourly wage rates, with pieceworkers receiving proportional boosts. The overall increase is 5.16%, with the exact amount figured to the nearest half cent.

Approval of the increase also means that every worker in the bargaining unit will get a sizeable retroactive paycheck in the next few weeks. Figuring as of Dec. 22, and not counting any overtime, the back pay check for a common laborer should come to about \$45 before taxes. That for a toolmaker should run to \$69.00. These checks are likely to fill a good deal of the hole in the average worker's finances made by traditional Christmas expenses.

In all some 300,000 workers will be affected by last month's WSB action, since it applies to all employees of GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania. However, back pay checks for workers represented by the IUE-CIO will be a lot smaller. Because of the political maneuvering of Dictator Carey, who completely ignored the expressed wishes of his union membership to accept the UE-GE contract, the effective date of the IUE-CIO pact is Oct. 13 instead of Sept. 15.

There can be no doubt that without UE pressure, the wage freeze artists would have sat on our wage increase for many more months, and maybe wouldn't have approved it at all. However, UE broke the log jam when it sent a national delegation to Washington and gained promises of action from public members of the wage board and from the economic stabilization director. Moreover, the union didn't leave things at that. Knowing that politicians promises aren't quite as good as money in the bank, UE locals throughout the three big electrical industry chains began a campaign of demonstrations and mass actions.

In Schenectady, the campaign was spurred by the last meeting of the stewards' council which voted approval of mass actions to force the wage hike OK. This was one time that the voice of the working people was heard in Washington.

IUE Wage Boost Margin Shrinks

Announcement by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics that its cost-of-living index had risen by only two-tenths of a point between Sept. 15 and Nov. 15 pricked the balloon of IUE-CIO boasts that its GE wage increase would be 1½c and 2c an hour more than that won by UE. It turned out that the advantage won by the Carey maneuverers in getting the later date on which to base their boost amounted to one-fifth of a cent or less.

In exchange for this insignificant sum, amounting to 8c or 9c a week for most workers, the IUE-CIO

membership was forced to give up back pay averaging \$15 to \$18.

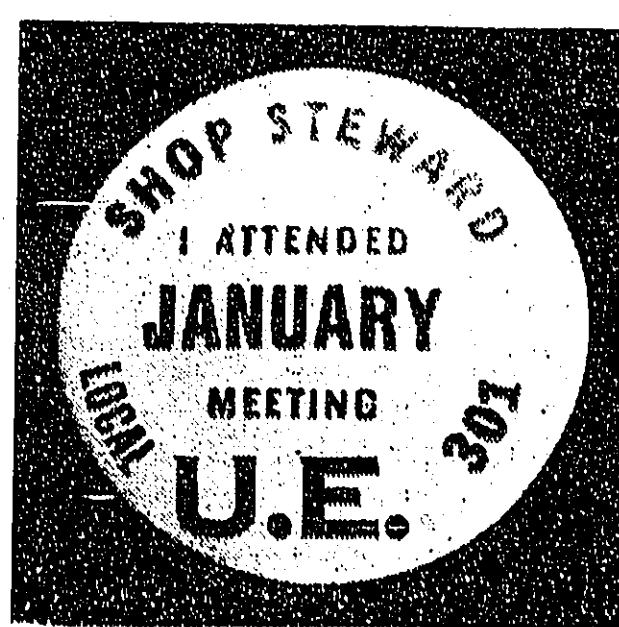
The November index stood at 191.6, while that for September was 191.4. This pegged the IUE-CIO raise at 5.27%, as against 5.16% for UE. The Nov. 15 index date was selected by Carey in an effort to save face since his refusal to obey the wishes of IUE membership had already cost the workers in shops represented by the CIO union one month's back pay.

UE will resume negotiations with GE on the economic sections of the contract in a reopening beginning in February.

Donate Candy to Homes

Surplus candy, fruit and nuts, left over from the big Local 301 Christmas parties, have been turned over to welfare agencies to be distributed among the people who are living in local hospitals and other institutions. The action was announced by the activities committee through Chairman O. B. Phillips.

Phillips said that approximately 350 bags of Christmas refreshments were given to Welfare Commissioner Leo Vosberg. Among the institutions to benefit were the Sunnyview Home, which houses crippled children, and the Ingersoll Home for the Aged.



NEW BUTTON. All Local 301 shop stewards who attend Monday's meeting will receive the button pictured above. New buttons will be issued every month.

Honor Roll

There were a dozen new members of the UE Local 301 "52 Club" this week, bringing to 471 the total number of men and women who have contributed at least \$5 to aid those who have fought for union wages and conditions on the picket lines. The new names on the honor roll are:

Bldg. 285
S. Lizzi
A. Fiorini
R. Altieri

Bldg. 60
G. Estella
J. John

Bldg. 97
W. Balbarsus

Bldg. 107
O. Keller

Bldg. 273
T. Moran
E. Birch
D. Gauvreau

Bldg. 16
J. Mastra
G. Parker

UE Urges Unions Walkout on WSB

UE has demanded that the CIO and the AFL withdraw its members from the WSB, and in this way make sure that wage controls die before Jan. 20 when the new administration takes office.

The demand was made in the light of the experience of all unions with the wage freeze machinery which has held up pay increases for months, and in some cases, even for years. The case of the GE wage increase, held up by the WSB from Sept. 9 until Dec. 18, and finally approved only after a campaign to force approval was launched by UE in the shops and in Washington, is a perfect example of the services being performed for the big corporations by the wage freeze artists.

The current "strike" by industry members of the board has made it all the more important that labor stop lending its name to this machinery. The UE demand pointed out that under the newest setup, all authority is placed in the hands of Economic Stabilizer Michael DiSalle. This deprives the labor members of "any vote or authority on the WSB," the union noted.

UE also stressed the recent CIO convention action opposing the wage freeze. This is the position maintained by our union ever since the freeze was inaugurated. Despite this, both CIO and AFL representatives still cling to their positions as "members" of the WSB.

UE ON THE JOB!

Bldg. 16: In October, when a group of screw machine operators protested the inadequate prices for cutting off and rethreading hex-head bolts and the inconsistency of these prices, supervision gave assurance that the situation would be corrected. However, no action was taken and the group found it necessary to present a written grievance on Dec. 1. A sub-committee meeting and investigation followed. The findings of this joint group were generally satisfactory to the workers, but supervision has refused to apply these findings. In view of this, the union demands an immediate management investigation and correction of the situation.

Bldg. 17: Index group is protesting the inadequate piece work stacking prices on several jobs. Immediate correction is demanded.

Bldg. 24: Coil winders group working on mag. ref. job feels that the job is improperly classified in relation to the skills involved. The union demands reevaluation of the job and proper increases in rating.

Bldg. 40: Richard Corliss, a milling machine operator with an A.R.K. of \$1.76 was injured on Nov. 11. He has now been medically approved for return to work but with a 40 lbs. weight limit, making it impossible for him to return to his former job. This fair, he has not been properly considered for jobs for which he does qualify. The union demands that such consideration be given to Corliss.

Bldg. 60: Assembly group protests the constant safety hazards existing in the working areas of the drill press and assembly groups. They feel that supervision's negligence, failure to check set-ups and failure to provide scaffolding on the highest jobs all result in constant danger to the workers' lives and welfare. The union demands a thorough safety investigation of these conditions in order to correct them.

Bldg. 66: Clinton H. Bartow was classified as a gas burner operator working on a National machine. Because of lack of work, he was laid off before others of lower service. He was transferred to 10, and at the time promised his old job back as soon as operations permit. Now a man with less service has been assigned to his old job, while he has been asked to go onto a Universal gas burner, a job which

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)
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301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

would require another break-in period. The union demands that supervision abide by its agreement with Bartow and return him to working on a National gas burner.

Bldg. 69: On job CR7009 D101 Size 2 reverser forms, 63c timing rate has been fixed for operation 3. Men on other jobs doing the same work receive timing rates of 74c. The union demands the 74c rate for this job.

Bldg. 73: J. Vernacchio formerly worked as a welder in 273. Because of an injury, he was forced to accept a lower-rated miscellaneous machine operation job. He is now able to return to welding. The union demands he be given a welding job.

Bldg. 105: Group under Foreman T. Male on 3rd shift is now on 6 1/2-hour day. The union demands equalization of work to give group full 8-hour day.

Bldg. 269: Catherine Pasquercillo is classified as a bench assembler on development and fabricating work, a job with a rate of \$1.37. Although she is a qualified operator, she is receiving only \$1.34. She has three years service with 10 months in 269. Her foreman has told her that the only part of her service that counts is that in the tube division. This, of course, is in complete violation of the seniority agreement which provides for plantwide, not building, seniority. Recently, there have been several B openings and this worker has been bypassed in favor of others with less service. The union demands fair treatment for this woman worker and upgrading to which she is entitled.

Group demands clarification of the classification and duties of J. Bjorklund. They do not feel that he should be doing production work.

William Cain is classified as a C hydrogen furnace operator with a \$1.60 1/2 job rate. His duties are strictly those belonging in B category. The union requests reclassification with proper rate increase.

Bldg. 273: Douglas Face requests retroactive adjustment of his starting rate to two steps below job rate based on outside experience, welding school record and performance on job.

Leslie Nicholas has not received proper consideration for upgrading. The union demands an investigation to provide him with such opportunity for upgrading.

C. Boyer has been transferred to a related job with a rate of \$1.65. However, he was started at \$1.47 in violation of the contract. The union therefore demands he be given a retroactive adjustment in accordance with article X-3-a-4.

Elmer Chichester is classified as an A crane follower. However, recently he has been doing AA crane following work and giving full normal performance in all as-

pects of the job. The union demands reclassification to AA with proper rate adjustment.

Carl Flory, a truck driver, is not brought in on Saturdays when another employee does his job. The union demands that this discrimination against Flory be stopped.

John Gebhardt is protesting the planer prices on stator frames. Extra work is not being paid for, and on 12" 2" frames he is not receiving the one extra rough cut to which he is entitled. A management investigation and adjustment of prices is demanded.

Harry Patenaude is classified as a C inspector, although the work he is doing belongs in B. The union demands reevaluation of the job with a change in classification and increase in rate.

William Polansky is entitled to an immediate increase in job rate on the basis of experience, ability and performance. The union demands that he be given this increase.

Group protests the activities of methods man and demands that supervision instruct him not to infringe either on the functions of the foreman or on their work.

Floor assembly group protests the use of workers outside their group to do their work on overtime basis. The union demands an end to this practice and assurance that this situation will not recur.

Bldg. 285: Because the conveyor can't function as planned, congestion has resulted and an extremely hazardous condition has been created. At the same time there is considerable lost time with loss of earnings in the protesting group. Under these circumstances, the union demands removal of the conveyor and a thorough management investigation of conditions in this shop.

UE LOCAL 301

STEWARDS MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, Jan. 5, 1953
7:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, Jan. 5, 1953
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

A Year to Remember-'52 Highlights

As the New Year begins, and as 1952 passes into history, the 17,000 men and women who make up UE Local 301, and their more than 300,000 union brothers and sisters throughout the United States and Canada can look back on many important events in their union lives.

Many of these events have marked important gains toward the goal of our union—better living standards and better working conditions for its members. Others have been temporary setbacks, but in all cases, the union maintained its fighting position and its determination to resist the attacks on organized labor.

These attacks came at an increasing tempo, with the full effect of the Taft-Hartley law first being felt by many working people. And the big corporations were busy cooking up new schemes to weaken, and ultimately to destroy the labor movement.

Schemes included the use of a "liberal" front—Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota—to put forth the idea of outlawing fighting trade unions, a proposal which got support from L. R. Boulware, GE's "labor relations" czar. The campaign to outlaw unions and to defy the democratically expressed will of the working people through such devices as decertification was just gaining momentum at the end of the year.

The anti-union band wagon got helpful pushes from the magazines which kow-tow to the big corporations during the year, with two vicious attacks on UE Local 301 appearing in national publications. One was written by Lester Velle for the Saturday Evening Post. It contained a rehash of all the old smears and lies about our union, and was greeted in the shops by a combination of anger and derision. Then as the year ended, the Reader's Digest did its bit for the National Association of Manufacturers by printing the same stuff, this time under the by-line of a labor-hating congressman, well known in Schenectady, Charles Kersten. That piece is discussed elsewhere in this issue of the EU News.

And the attacks took still another form. At contract time, the corporations set forth their demands on the union, demands which in most cases were aimed at crippling the collective bargaining power of the locals involved. The long strikes at General Cable, Westinghouse Nuttall, International Harvester and American Safety Razor, and the Marathon Electric lockout were a few of the results.

This combination of attacks on labor at the bargaining table, attacks on la-

bor in the Congress and in the courts and attacks on labor in the press made it obvious that big business was united in its determination to wipe out the gains made by the union movement over the past 20 years. Equally obvious was the urgency of labor uniting to resist the assault.

Now let's get down to a specific month-by-month review of the year for UE Local 301.

JANUARY

As the year opened, the big news in Schenectady was the drive by UE to force the Wage Stabilization Board to stop sitting on the 3.58% wage increase which was coming to General Electric workers. Local 301 was circulating a petition which won support through the works. More and more, workers were coming to understand the real meaning of the wage freeze which kept a tight lid on wages while prices were permitted to soar ever upward.

When the petition failed to move the wage freezers, the local joined with other UE locals in a mass delegation to Washington to force action. The Schenectady group chartered a bus for the long trip to the nation's capital.

The cost of living hit a new all-time high during the month, a high which was to be pushed upward many times before the year bowed out.

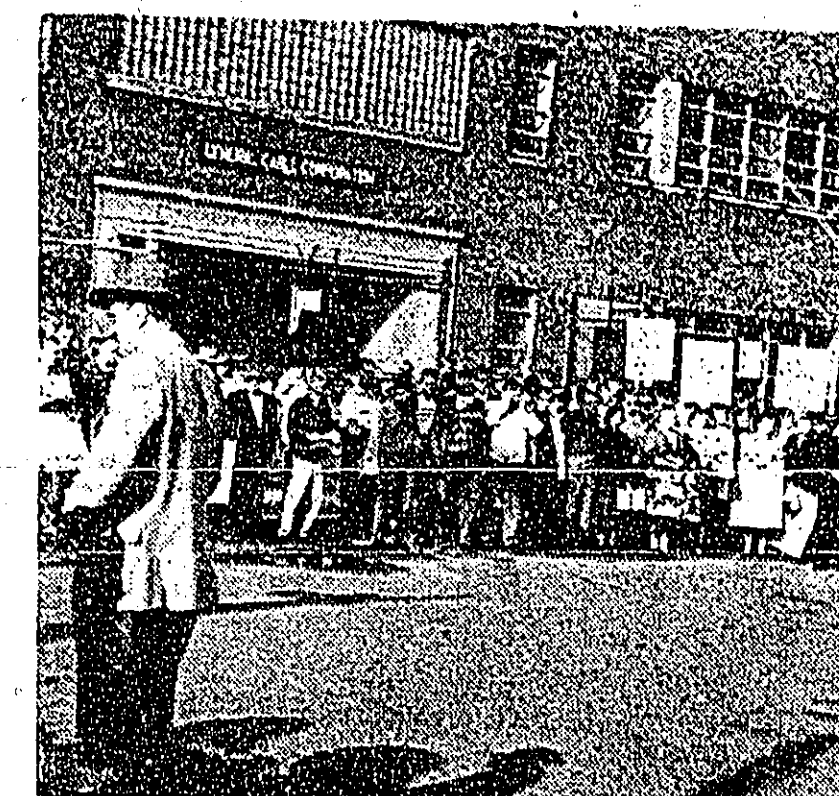
As the first month of the year drew toward a close, 301 moved into action on the local front. An appeal from many union members living in Rotterdam resulted in an expose in the EU News of the rising water which was causing thousands of dollars worth of damage to home-owners of the community. County and State authorities had been passing the buck back and forth.

However, after UE broke the Rotterdam story, the Schenectady newspapers picked it up, and eventually the State government moved in with encouragement from UE legislative representative Clifford McAvoy.

FEBRUARY

EU News headlines in February told of the union's drive to bust the wage freeze, the petition campaign to repeal Hughes-Brees, unity with AFL insurance company strikers and the launching of a determined effort to end discrimination in pay against women workers. They were all stories which had widespread reverberations for many months.

The drive against the wage freeze was partly inspired by the fact that the WSB still hadn't moved on the 3.58% wage increase despite mounting pressure from Schenectady and from many other cities in which UE shops were located. Petitions calling for the repeal of the Hughes-Brees law, which deprives thousands of workers a month of badly-needed unemployment insurance benefits, poured in from every building in the works, and the 301 executive board voted to send delegations to State Sen. Thomas Campbell and Assemblyman Oswald Heck to demand that the two local legislators work for the repeal measure sponsored by Sen. William Bianchi.



DEFENSE LINE. Strikes in defense of our union wages and conditions marked 1952, and none was of greater interest to 301 members than the long struggle off General Cable workers in nearby Rome. The UE picket line in that strike is shown above.

The union delegation succeeded in gaining a promise from Campbell that he would support changes in Hughes-Brees, but it later proved to be only a politician's promise—made to be broken.

Unity was the keynote when Local 301 went to the aid of striking AFL insurance agents, struggling to win a living wage from the giant Prudential Corporation. Our union won the gratitude of the insurance men by taking up a plant-gate collection which proved highly successful. Local leaders of the AFL union stood side-by-side with 301 members in making the collection, and the result was a warm feeling of labor solidarity expressed in a pledge from President Joseph Tucci of the insurance union that "if at any time in the future, we can be of service to you, do not hesitate to call on us."

MARCH

The winds of March blew hard in Schenectady, but they didn't stop the union from staging one of the most successful demonstrations of militant action in recent years. A lunch hour demonstration, called as part of a nationwide action to bring approval of the still pending 3.58% increase, brought more than 90% of the production and maintenance employees out of the Schenectady works. The plant was all but closed down for the rest of the day. Less than 48 hours later, the WSB finally approved the boost, a victory for UE which even the GE propagandists couldn't laugh off.

March also saw another development on the wage front, the company's 1.36% offer in reopening negotiations. GE workers promptly labeled the proposal as a "cheap tip," and UE members voted overwhelmingly to have no part of it.

Arising out of this situation was a UE bid for unity of all General Electric workers in future wage negotiations. UE President Albert Fitzgerald made the proposal, only to have the IUE-CIO dictator Carey spurn it with his usual callous disregard of the interests of his membership. However, the bid was warm-

(Continued on next page)

1953 Will Be Hard Year — But Victories Are Possible

(Continued from preceding page)
ly received by thousands of IUE rank-and-file workers who were becoming increasingly aware of the sell-out leadership of their own union.

APRIL

With GE still singing its 1% tune, Local 301 got down to planning toward winning a real wage increase in the summer negotiations. The kick-off was a stewards meeting which packed the hall and served notice on the company that Schenectady would be in a fighting mood from then on.

A big boost to the wage increase plans was given when the Schenectady local sent a large delegation to UE's national wage conference in Buffalo. Nine 301 members were among the 400 unionists from all over the country who mapped a set of goals which included ending the "pay the women less" racket, and winning adequate rates for skilled workers.

Growing unrest at GE's wage policies was reflected in increasing shop actions on important grievance issues, and there can be little doubt that the success of the summer wage talks resulted from these displays of militancy. At the same time, a set of stewards' classes helped to get the local in fighting trim for the hard battles ahead.

MAY

Skilled workers held the spotlight in May, as UE Locals throughout upstate New York joined with AFL, CIO and other independent unionists in a conference to push the fight to bring the rates for toolmakers and building trades craftsmen up to the levels at which they belonged. The conference, held in Syracuse, was marked by a feeling of solidarity which crossed union lines. This was reflected in the election of a continuations committee headed by William Templeton of UE 301, and including members from the AFL machinists, the CIO auto workers and the independent Mechanics Educational Society.

JUNE

With the coming of summer, another major

campaign rolled toward its peak, that of women workers to end discrimination. A conference similar to that of the craftsmen was held by the women workers in Syracuse, with 301 Treasurer Helen Quirini playing a major role. A three-week series of radio programs over station WPTR was launched by the local to spark the campaign, and many inequities were straightened out through the union grievance machinery.

The UE District 3 women's conference served as a model for many similar conferences held by the union throughout the country, and in many places the results were quick in coming.

JULY-AUGUST

Negotiations for a new contract with GE and the strikes forced on UE members across the country were the big news in the union during the summer months.

General Electric opened the contract talks in August with a number of proposals for contract changes, proposals which would have done away with several important contract benefits. However, before the talks ended in September, the company was forced to withdraw their demands.

Other union members were not so fortunate. In Rome, N. Y., and in two California plants, 2,000 UE men and women were forced to hit the picket lines to block General Cable Corporation attempts to completely destroy all union conditions. The struggle was a successful one, but only after long months of bitter fighting on the picket lines. Similar defensive strikes dragged on through the summer at the Nuttall Westinghouse plant near Pittsburgh and at Dayton's GHR foundry.

Then, in the final weeks of August, 30,000 international Harvester workers were forced out on strike. UE Local 301 members were called on to back these strikers with badly-needed financial support. At first the response was slow, but bit by bit, Schenectady unionists came to the realization that the strikers were fighting not only for their contracts, but

also to prevent GE from making an attempt to destroy our contract in 1953.

One light spot in the summer picture was provided unintentionally by GE President Ralph Cordiner. Cordiner addressed a meeting of top corporation executives at New York's swank Waldorf, and advised them to "slow down and live longer." Many GE workers felt that this time the boss had a good idea, and "slow down" stickers began to appear over dozens of machines in the shops.

SEPTEMBER

The end of the vacation season brought renewed union activity, with a high spot being the announcement that UE and GE had settled on a new contract providing workers with a 7c to 12c wage boost and other benefits. The contract went into effect on Sept. 15, but Dictator Carey of the IUE-CIO decided to ignore his membership again and set out on a political adventure. The result was that IUE members lost a full month's retroactive pay and became increasingly bitter at Carey's maneuvering.

The month closed out on a happy note for thousands of UE Local 301 members who attended the union's most successful field day celebration.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

The final months of the year are too fresh in the minds of most of us to need much reviewing, but a few high spots are worthy of mention. Most of the major strikes were settled, and Local 301 stepped up its collections to aid the strikers who had suffered serious financial privations during their struggle. The acquittal of Negro Harvester strike leader Harold Ward, who had been framed by the company and the Chicago police on murder charges, was a major victory.

New smear attacks on UE presaged the drive to destroy our union which is likely to gain strength in coming months. But the workers served notice that the job wouldn't be an easy one when they ignored the smears and the witch hunts, and voted for UE whenever they got the chance. The crushing of a series of IUE-CIO raids in GE shops by overwhelming majorities was one result of this feeling among the working people. Election victories in Fort Edward, Hudson Falls, Niles, Ohio, and Tiffin, Ohio, were among the most notable.

However, probably the most significant UE victory was scored in Erie, Pa., where 1,200 GE office workers voted by a 5 to 1 ratio to return to UE after 2½ years of IUE misrepresentation.

A legislative conference of all UE New York State locals in Schenectady drew up a strong program for political action in the coming year, and 301 can be expected to play a leading part in this activity.

No review of the year would be complete without mention of the 301 Christmas parties which, like the earlier field day, proved to be among the most successful social events in the local's history.

The outlook for '53—It's going to be a tough year with assaults on our living standards and on our union increasing, but unity among ourselves, and throughout the labor movement could make it a happy and successful one.



Strike Collection Breakdown

Another \$300 was contributed by UE Local 301 members over the holidays to help out union members who have fought for us on the picket lines in recent months. This brought the total collected to more than \$6,500. All union members are urged to continue making contributions at least until their section quota of \$1 per member for each of two months is filled. The figures given below are based on a single month's quota, with each section listed after the executive board member who represents it. Start the New Year right by giving a buck for those who fought so well in 1952.

Members in Section	Board Member	Amount Contributed	% of Quota
75	McLean	\$204.75	272.9
550	Donato	783.50	142.5
425	Linka	489.56	115.2
150	Moon	124.00	80.0
400	Brushear	303.50	75.8
825	Gabo	597.50	72.4
500	Christensen	343.00	68.0
750	Di Lorenzo	445.25	59.4
1100	Alois-Vitallo	598.00	54.4
575	Marine	305.00	53.2
350	Christman	177.50	50.7
475	Friedlander	235.00	47.4
725	Stewart	341.50	46.9
550	D'Amico	202.10	36.7
925	Lighthall	298.00	31.1
575	Hildreth	165.00	28.7
350	Templeton	88.75	25.4
550	Rosa	131.25	23.9
950	Oberlies	218.25	22.9
450	Villano	101.95	22.7
875	Simpson	138.00	15.8
375	Palazuke	55.50	14.8
450	Scott	54.50	12.1
650	De Masco	67.50	10.3
525	Kaminski	39.00	7.4
250	La Bombard	10.00	4.0
325	Behr	10.00	3.7
400	Thomas	8.30	2.0
250	Esposito	5.00	2.0
450	Agius	.00	0.0
Total		\$6,531.16	

HAPPY TIME. Social events, including the spring dance, baseball night, field day and Christmas parties were important parts of the year's union activities, and, without exception, they were highly successful. Pictured on the right is a family group as it arrived on balmy September Sunday for the field day. All of the programs were directed by the activities committee.



Stewards to Hear Jim Matles After Swearing-in on Monday

UE Local 301's shop stewards will get together Monday for their first meeting of 1953. The gathering will be highlighted by an address by UE Director of Organization James

Some Union "Leaders" Are Safe From Attack

Big Business stooges in Washington are trying to drive Jim Matles and Harry Bridges out of this country. The same politicians are long and loud in their praises of two other men who call themselves labor leaders, Jim Carey and Joe Ryan.

Matles and Bridges are two men who have always fought hard in the interests of the working people of America—and their fight has paid off in higher wages, better working conditions and democratic unions. Carey and Ryan have spent their years feathering their own nests, splitting unions, crushing all those who oppose them and keeping the living standards of the members of their unions down.

In UE, where Jim Matles is a national leader, the membership makes all decisions; the union fights for unity of all working people; efforts to organize the unorganized, to raise wages and to improve working conditions go on continuously.

In the IUE-CIO, the decisions are made by the Carey clique without regard for membership wishes; tens of thousands of dollars of dues money is spent for splitting and raiding; and the politicians call the tune.

In "King" Ryan's longshore union, anybody who disagrees with the top leadership does so only at the risk of his own personal safety. The current investigation of New York waterfront conditions has revealed that Ryan depends on gangsters like Albert Anastasia to maintain control over and exploit the men who work in the world's richest port. These workers average \$1,500 a year in earnings; they are forced to shape up daily, a practice which gives control over their livelihood to gangsters and kickback artists, and the companies reward the "labor leaders" with hundreds of thousands of dollars in under-the-table payments.

In the port of San Francisco, where Harry Bridges' ILWU is the bargaining agent, a longshore worker averages \$5,000 a year. His job is protected by seniority rights and the shape up, with all of its kickbacks and gangster-control is eliminated. The only "deals" with the bosses are those made in the open across the bargaining table, subject to membership ratification.

Matles, and by the official swearing-in ceremony for all of the 630 stewards elected in the shops last month.

Matles will give the stewards a first-hand report on the attempts being made to drive him out of leadership of the union, and to force him to leave this country, where he has lived and worked all of his adult life.

The UE leader is now fighting denaturalization proceedings inaugurated by James McGranery, the "lame duck" attorney-general, who is apparently bucking for a big job from the corporations by launching attacks on unions. The Matles deportation move is one such attack.

Matles came to this country 24 years ago, when he was only 13. He went to work as a machinist and soon became a leader in the growing industrial union movement which was to produce the CIO. He came into the UE at the head of a group of AFL machinists' locals soon after our union was organized, and has been Director of Organization ever since then, except for the years he served in the U. S. Army.

UE Smashes Frameup Of Harvester Leader

Another company frameup arising out of the recent Harvester strike has been defeated by UE. This union victory was scored in Louisville where a criminal court jury found James L. Wright, publicity and education director of UE Local 236F, "not guilty" of throwing rocks at automobiles carrying Harvester scabs.

Wright told the court that police beat him up in a squad car before they arrested him on the phoney charges. The company used the incident as an excuse to fire Wright. Following the verdict, the president of the UE local, declared:

"Now that Wright has been found not guilty, Harvester has no excuse to keep him from his job. The only reason Harvester could have now is that they want to eliminate every Negro leader in the plant."

A company spokesman denied this, but said that Harvester wouldn't rehire Wright. The Negro trade unionist was one of the first 10 men hired in the plant when it opened in 1946. There are now 6,000 workers employed there.