

State Orders GE Pay Award in Death Case

A state Workmen's Compensation referee has ruled that the eye ailment which Francis D. Muldowney developed and his death related to an accident at the General Electric plant here May 19, 1948. The claims of Muldowney, his widow and his estate were handled by UE 301 through its attorney, Marshall Perlin.

GE claimed that the cataract for which Muldowney had to undergo an operation was not connected with an injury to his right eye at the plant. The company also denied the eye injury had any connection with the later heart attacks and his death May 28, 1949.

Muldowney's case had been closed Dec. 1, 1948, after he received workmen's compensation for being out of the plant for about a month after the accident. However, he was only able to work from June 21 to Aug. 15 that summer, and then was laid up until his death nearly a year later. His widow died recently.

The referee ordered GE to pay Muldowney's estate \$28 a week from the date of his accident to the date of his death, to pay \$21 a week owed to the widow from the time of her husband's death to her own death, and to pay all medical bills of Muldowney and \$200 funeral expenses. The amount comes to over \$2,500 without the medical and funeral bills.

Want a Cash Prize?

Remember, you won't be eligible for the cash prizes to be drawn at the August joint membership and shop stewards' meeting unless your dues through July have been turned in at the union office by then.

Because their dues weren't in, two members whose membership book numbers were drawn missed out on the \$50 prize at the July meeting and two missed out on smaller prizes.



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Truck Drivers' Cases Pressed by UE 301

At a grievance session Tuesday on problems of Building 227 truck drivers, GE management agreed to take seniority into consideration in upgrading drivers, providing the man can do the higher rated job. A UE 301 committee at the meeting with Frank Schaaft of the Works Manager's office complained of favoritism shown by supervision in hand-picking men for upgrading.

The union also complained that truck drivers were laid off or transferred to other work while trucks were loaned out, without drivers, to other divisions for long periods.

Schaaft said that a driver will be assigned to any truck loaned out for more than a short period.

Appeal for Blood

Two blood donors answered the appeal for blood for Mrs. Eugene LeMoine, but at least two more donors are needed. Volunteers should contact the union office.

Mrs. LeMoine is the wife of a UE 301 member in Building 85 who was for many years a shop steward and Executive Board member.

Have You Paid Your UE 301 Dues?

UE-301 Again Free To Spend Own Money

The UE 301 membership again has the right to spend its own union funds without interference.

Supreme Court Justice John Alexander on Tuesday killed the injunction he issued last November forbidding UE 301 to spend more than \$3,500 a week.

By agreement of UE and IUE attorneys all other legal actions connected with the Schenectady fight between UE and IUE were also wiped off the slate at the same time. These included the contempt of court proceedings IUE started against UE 301 officers.

The dropping of all law suits was the outcome of a meeting in Schenectady Tuesday attended by David Scribner, national UE attorney; Leon Novak, UE District 3 attorney; Marshall Perlin, UE 301 attorney; Samuel Levy, Schenectady attorney retained by UE 301 in connection with the contempt case, and by IUE attorneys. Afterward the group visited Judge Alexander who at once vacated all orders he had issued.

The only unfinished business remaining on the hands of UE 301 now, in connection with the law cases, is paying the bills of outside auditors the union had to hire and outside legal fees.

These unnecessary and heavy expenses, running into thousands of dollars, were caused by the maneuver of the IUE in getting the injunction to interfere with the UE 301 membership in spending their own money. The intention of the move was to hamper the union in processing grievances, conducting contract negotiations and providing its usual service to its members.

Union Wins Increases For Group in Bldg. 24

UE 301 has obtained a one-step increase for eight Class A and Class B machinists in Building 24. Frank Schaaft of the Works Manager's office told a union committee Tuesday the raise would be granted because of special skills involved on the jobs.

The Class A men in the group are raised from \$1.67 an hour \$1.725, as of July 31, and the Class B men from \$1.555 to \$1.61. There will be individual reviews of the cases of two men below the job rate, Schaaft said.

Unite Behind the Contract Demands

UE Bargaining Record Cited

The UE's bargaining record for 1950 on wages and insurance and its fight against discrimination won recognition from the National Foremen's Institute, a research organization sponsored by employers. Here's what the institute's Employees Relations Bulletin of July 19 had to say about the UE bargaining:

"Wages: 75 per cent of the agreements signed between January and July granted direct wage hikes of 7 cents an hour average.

"Health and Welfare: Worked hard on getting company-paid benefits for worker's family, worker's daily hospital fee apt to be \$10 and his family's \$8. Benefit period likely to run up to 70 days. Other benefits include up to \$250 surgical benefits, doctor's visits at \$5 each for 70 days for the worker, and almost as much for his dependents. Weekly sickness and accident benefits for a year's duration have been gained in some contracts.

"Other Issues: Specialized in the spectacular such as hiring Negro apprentices in skilled trades where they had not been allowed before and striking for elimination of differentials in women's pay, both good issues in themselves, but received out of proportion emphasis by this union."

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Contract Negotiations Still Continue

How GE Used Strike of Steamfitters To Deprive Workers of Jobless Pay

Proof that the General Electric Company misused the recent AFL Steamfitters' strike to make it an excuse to keep other workers from getting unemployment insurance was presented at a hearing this week before a state referee.

UE Local 301 obtained the hearing in its fight against a state ruling that Turbine and Motor and Generator workers laid off during the steamfitters' strike had to wait seven weeks before being eligible for jobless pay. The state made the ruling because GE claimed the wholesale layoffs were caused by the strike, which started May 15.

Referee Anthony J. Sacco heard testimony Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday at Schenectady City Hall, with Marshall Perlin, UE 301 attorney, appearing for the union members and Hyler Conell as GE attorney. The lawyers are to file briefs later.

Production Manager Testifies

First witness was Daniel J. MacLane Jr., production manager of the Turbine Division. He testified that it takes 42 weeks to produce the average turbine and that 40 to 50 turbines are usually in the process of being built at one time in Building 273. The final testing, for which steamfitters are required, takes place at the end of the 42 weeks.

Early in the strike there were few layoffs, MacLane said. But in the week ending June 11 there were 2,029 workers laid off and in the week ending June 18 there were 2,202. He said the 1,531 out during the week ended June 25 included a number of people on vacation.

Vacation Shutdown Advanced

MacLane admitted GE cancelled the annual two-week shutdown scheduled for July in Turbine.

UE claims that the two weeks of mass layoffs were really just the usual vacation shutdown period moved up for GE's own purposes, with some of the layoffs running into the third week. Attorney Perlin pointed out that many of the workers took their vacation in the layoff period, rather than be without pay.

MacLane also admitted that at the start of the strike GE was two

turbines behind in production, and that by the end of the strike it was eight turbines behind. The company did not keep on enough workers to keep the production (before assembling) up to normal but could have done so, he acknowledged.

According to MacLane, the company "saw no sense" in continuing to make turbines as long as it couldn't ship them out because the final tests could not be made without steamfitters.

He testified also, that during the strike several contractors agreed

(Continued on page two)

UE-301 Membership Will Meet Tuesday

Leo Jandreau will report on GE contract negotiations at the UE 301 combined membership and shop stewards' meeting Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the union hall.

Second shift members will meet at 12:45 a.m., Tuesday (immediately after work Monday night).

First and third shift members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Delegates to the national UE convention Sept. 18-22 in New York City will be elected.

The UE 301 Constitution Committee will report.

8-Cent Package

A package settlement amounting to 8 cents an hour was won by UE Local 134 at Cutler Metal Products Company, Camden, N. J.

Union Wins Rate Raises for Inspectors, Welders; Inspectors to Meet August 16

Job rate raises for the top three groups of inspectors and for day work welders were offered by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, to UE 301 committees last week.

The one-step rate increase for welders was accepted by the elected welders' committee and went into effect last week. The committee reserved the right to press further the demand that about 23 men already receiving the higher rate also be raised.

The inspectors' committee called a meeting of all Class AA, A, B, and C inspectors throughout the works to consider the company's offer. The meeting will be held at the union hall Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 1:30 p.m., for the second shift and at 7:30 p.m. for the first and third shifts.

The practice of the company has been to pay varying individual rates above the job rates to inspectors in the top groups. Stevens offered to raise the AA rate by three steps; the A rate by two steps, and the B rate by one step. There would be an immediate one-step raise for all AA and A men, and all B men except six already receiving above the rate. This totals 218 men who would be raised.

However, Stevens refused to raise the C rate. The committee

pointed out that the four top groups, including C, had joined in asking for a raise, feeling that all four should be raised, and that AA, A and B men support the claims of the C men.

The three welders' job rates were raised one step each, but as in the other craft adjustments, Stevens refused to raise those at the "preferential rate," above the top. He agreed that the union had the right to take this issue further. The raise went to about 200 welders. The committee pointed out that the men receiving the "preferential" rate were actually meeting the requirements of a higher-skilled job, but Stevens insisted he wanted to eliminate preferential rates when job rates are raised.

The union committees also pointed out that in considering the one-step raises offered, they still feel that all the skilled craft rates are still out of line and need correction on an over-all basis, as proposed by UE in the national negotiations.

GE Drops A Few Bad Proposals

A little progress was reported this week by the national UE negotiating committee on contract provisions covering transfers and a few other minor points at sessions with GE Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in New York City.

The company indicated that starting next Monday it may agree to the union's request to meet more often and for longer sessions.

Since the negotiations started June 13, the union has made no progress in its proposals to improve the old contract. It has had to concentrate on fighting efforts of the company to weaken or destroy contract protections gained in the past.

However, the company has withdrawn some of the damaging proposals it made this year.

For instance, GE has withdrawn its proposals for compulsory overtime, for forced holiday work, and for declaring the union has no right to negotiate wage rates, Leo Jandreau reported.

GE also has withdrawn its proposal to classify as a change of method the switching of a man from one machine to another, or adding or removing a person from a group.

The union and the company are still at loggerheads, however, on key issues, including seniority and piece work guarantees.

The membership of 301 and of the big Erie local have called on the national UE negotiating committee to take a strike vote throughout the UE locals in the GE system. Several smaller locals have asked similar action and indications point to similar requests from other locals.

Because so many workers are on vacation, the UE 301 Editorial Committee decided to economize again this week by having this week's EU News half-size, a single sheet of paper.

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Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McCarlin, Chairman
Adam Kolostonski, Secretary
Robert Armstrong Frank D'Amico
Vitor Pascho George Quick
George Roode Troy Salpes

Editorial Office
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 8-1886