

Urges Prompt Action On Organizing Drive

Chairman William Stewart of the 301 Organizing Committee this week sent a letter to all shop stewards outlining proposed plans for the campaign to get 100 per cent UE membership in every department and urging full cooperation.

He warned that the number of non-members at the plant "is a serious threat to the satisfactory settlement of day-to-day grievances and the future negotiations." Executive Board members have been asked to set up organizing committees in their sections not later than next week.

Plans for the drive were approved by the shop stewards' meeting Feb. 1 and will be presented to next week's 301 membership meeting. The proposal is to have the drive from Feb. 15 to Apr. 15.

Any member who signs up a new member will receive a dollar from the two-dollar initiation fee which the new member pays by check-off or by cash. The union office will pay the dollar award after receiving the initiation fee.

Second Shift Stages After Midnight Party



Members of the second shift in a jovial mood at their party Jan. 28 at 301 hall. Fred Pacelli, Board member from the second shift, is the soulful looking bar-tender in the left foreground. The party started after midnight and continued on and on.



William H. Wilson, Jr., of Building 77, in plaid jacket, doing card tricks at the second shift party. Scotty Landsay, Bldg. 49, who has worked nights 27 of his 38 years with GE, drew the joker. The onlookers are all from the Bldg. 77 paintshop.

Transport Workers Win Diamond Strike

The recent strike of cab drivers against the Diamond Taxi Service was won by Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO. The union obtained reinstatement of the three men whose firing led to the strike. All strikers were also reinstated.

All the drivers used to work a 12 hour day and receive a 30 per cent commission, with a weekly guarantee of \$40 for a six-day

week. Under the agreement the commission was raised to 40 per cent. About half the men have been placed on a 10 hour day and the company has agreed to work out a schedule so that eventually the others will be on 10 hours also. The men working 10 hours get a daily guarantee of \$7.50 and the men on 12 hours get a daily guarantee of \$8.

The agreement also provides grievance machinery, an arbitration provision, seniority, and paid vacations.

Schenectady Printers Get \$87 for 37½ Hours

Under a new agreement with the International Typographical Union, commercial printing shops in Schenectady last week started paying printers \$87 for a 37½ hour week. That is \$2.32 an hour. The old rate was \$85 for a 40 hour week, or \$2.12½ cents an hour.

The Pressmen's Union negotiated the same rate for the cylinder pressmen.

Distribution Operators Get Raise Through 301

The job rate for distribution operators, who control the distribution of steam through the plant, was raised 11 cents to \$1.675 in a grievance meeting with Works Manager Louis J. Male last week. This means a two-step raise for four men and a one-step raise for one, retroactive to Dec. 6.

The men contended that their job required the same skills as steamfitters. At the first Building 41 level A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, offered a one-step raise. Male went one further. This brings the rate to one step below the steamfitters.

Arguing the case for the grievance committee were Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Marshall White, shop steward.

GE Not 'Observing' Lincoln's Birthday

Lincoln's Birthday will be just an ordinary Saturday for any worker called in tomorrow, but Washington's Birthday will be an "observed holiday" this year.

If a worker not on continuous process is called in on Washington's Birthday, he will be paid double time. A continuous operation worker will be paid double time only in case the holiday comes on the sixth or seventh day of his work week, meaning one of his regular two days off. It is not one of the six paid holidays.

Organizing Drive Starts!!

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THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - - C. I. O.

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301 Opens Campaign For 100% Membership

The drive to make the Schenectady GE Works 100 per cent UE by Apr. 15 opened this week when the membership meeting approved plans of the Organizing Committee, as recommended by the Executive Board and the Shop Stewards' Council.

Much of the meeting had been spent on problems facing the union in reopening the GE contract and the danger that Congress will retain Taft-Hartley provisions.

"The best way to solve all these problems is to organize all the unorganized in the plant," William Mastriani said in presenting the Organizing Committee's report. William Stewart, committee chairman, was unable to be present.

Every 301 member who signs up a new member between Wednesday (Feb. 15) and Apr. 15 will receive a dollar from the new member's two dollar initiation fee. Application cards must be received at the office on or before Apr. 15 for the awards to be given. The initiation fee may be paid by cash or check-off. The dollar award will be paid after the two-dollar fee has been received by the union office.

Board members this week started setting up sub-committees of shop stewards and other members to campaign during lunch hours. The EU News will print the name of each steward whose group is 100 per cent UE.

Applications of members who dropped out of the union will be considered individually by the Executive Board under the constitutional provisions for reinstatement.

The Executive Board has added Helen Quirini to the Organizing Committee. Other members, beside Stewart and Mastriani, are John Green, assistant recording secretary, and Chief Shop Steward Stephen Watts.

**DON'T BE A FREE RIDER
JOIN THE UNION**

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

by YOMEN



GE Conference Board Wage Drive Approved by 301

A wage increase "to restore the purchasing power of our members and to bring back the jobs of those laid off" was called for by unanimous vote of the GE Conference Board of UE locals at its first 1949 meeting in New York last Friday.

The meeting did not recommend a specific date for the actual reopening of the contract on wages, but called for "an intensive campaign" to bring to the membership and the general public the facts which make a raise necessary.

Facts of the Case

The meeting adopted a statement summarizing these facts, including the lay-offs which have hit several thousand GE workers, the increase in GE worker productivity by more than 25 per cent since the end of the war, and the fact that the purchasing power of full time GE workers is \$11.09 per week less than in January 1945. These facts will be presented in greater detail in later issues of this paper.

The Conference Board agreed to lay the groundwork for a joint meeting later with UE conference boards in other major companies under UE contract. That meeting is expected to recommend a reopening date.

In calling for a wage increase, the conference declared that special attention must be paid also to the wage injustices in the rates of skilled trades and women.

The Conference Board actions
(Continued on Page 2)

ing the steamfitters away from the rest of the workers in the plant.

"We suggest that your union join with us during our coming negotiations with the General Electric Company as the only way you can achieve success for your members."

301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau sent the letter Wednesday to Keith W. Rockwell, business agent of the Plumbers and Steamfitters.

301 Sends Letter to AFL Steamfitters

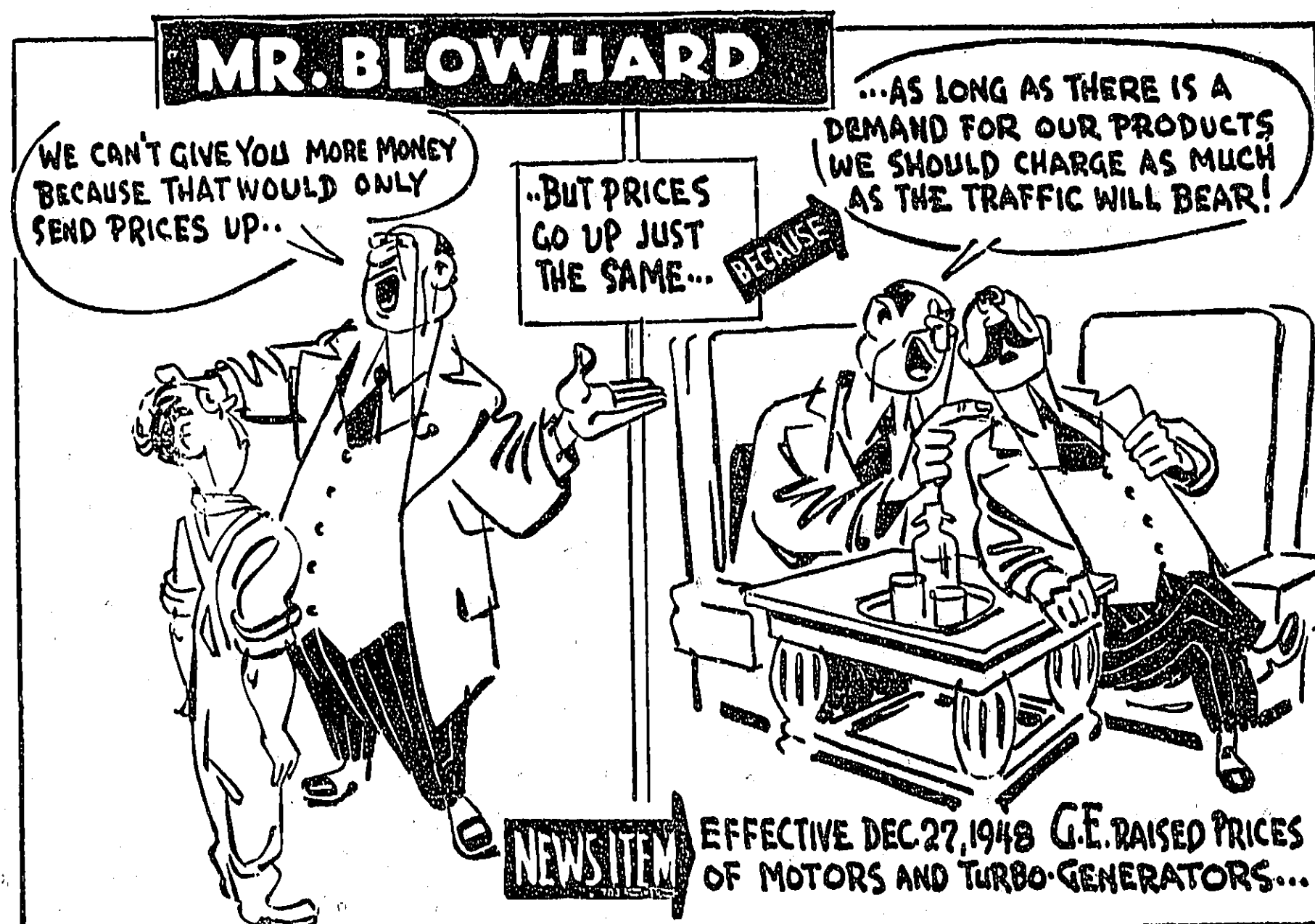
The Local 301 membership meeting this week unanimously approved the Executive Board's recommendation that the following letter be sent to the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 128, AFL:

"We read in the local newspapers that your union contemplates a strike of the steamfitters in the Schenectady Plant of the General Electric Company. According to these newspaper stories, your dispute with the company is over the issues of wages and other conditions of employment.

"Local 301 has from its very inception fought to increase the wages, and improve the conditions of employment for all of the employees of the General Electric Com-

pany including the steamfitters. During the past twelve years great progress has been made by the UE in the plants of the General Electric Company throughout the country.

"We regret that your union to date has not communicated with Local 301 concerning your dispute with the General Electric Company. We believe that the steamfitters alone cannot be successful without the cooperation of Local 301. We are willing to discuss with you your dispute with the company, despite the fact that your union has used the vicious Taft-Hartley Law for the purpose of undermining the unity of the General Electric employees by break-



Plan Study Groups For Shop Stewards

In order to equip all shop stewards with the essential information needed to carry on their day-to-day duties, the Executive Board has arranged a series of discussion meetings for small groups. The meetings started Wednesday and will continue through April. Each steward is notified by the union office of his schedule.

The meetings will cover the following topics:

- Grievances and contract, to be conducted by the business agent and his assistants.
- Workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance and other legislation, conducted by Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney.
- Union finances, conducted by Rudy Radosovich, 301 bookkeeper.
- UE policy, conducted by Julius Emspak, UE secretary-treasurer.
- Meetings for first and third shift stewards will be at 7:30 p.m. and for second shift stewards at noon. All sessions will be at the union hall.

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GE Conference Board Wage Drive Approved

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were approved by the 301 membership meeting this week, after the delegates reported. The delegates are President Frank Kris, Business Agent Leo Jandrea, Board Members William Stewart, Dewey Brashear and Anthony Esposito, and Marshall White, shop steward.

The Conference Board also recommended to the locals the following legislative and bargaining activities:

A vigorous fight for improved social security and unemployment insurance laws, passage of an adequate national health law, and relief from burdensome taxation on low incomes.

Insistence on improvement of the GE pension plan and a fight for improvement in present health and sick benefit plans.

A fight for a shorter work week without reduction in pay, because of "unemployment rising in our industry due to increased productivity and the lack of purchasing power on the part of the masses of the people." Campaign for this to be developed with the rest of UE.

A vigorous fight for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and restoration of the Wagner Act, as required for success in the collective bargaining program.

301 Girls Win

The 301 girls' basketball team defeated the Lenderettes 49 to 33 at the Young Women's Christian Association Feb. 7.

Carboloy Speed-up In Bldg. 16 Confirmed

Fears of lathe operators in Building 16 that supervision actions around the use of carboloy tools indicated a coming speed-up were confirmed in a grievance meeting in Building 41 last week.

Frank Schaaff of the Works Manager's office said it was "nothing new to see a delegation when carboloy comes in." The specific complaint was against a ruling by Foreman C. J. Marchewka that carboloy tools would be issued only by order.

Schaaff added that "perhaps they have learned from experience. We don't want people saying a job was timed on carboloy when it was timed on high speed steel." He declared supervision had taken over the application of carboloy. If carboloy is used where a price was based on high speed steel, there will be a new price, he said. Shop Steward Stanley Fisher said that the new ruling on tools applied to some jobs that had been timed with carboloy only a few weeks ago. Schaaff admitted that if the loss of time getting carboloy tools affected earnings, it was something to consider.

The union has taken the position that where higher machine speeds are used for more production, the faster handling required should mean higher earnings. The company says only the same earnings are called for.

It's Wise to Know Facts About Breaking-in Rate

Workers who are transferred to a different piece work job which requires a learning time are generally told by the foreman that they will be paid a breaking-in rate (10 cents higher than a new inexperienced employee) for a fixed period, such as six weeks or eight weeks.

This is a convenient device, but is misleading, and can cost the worker money. The contract (Article XI, Section 2, paragraph e) provides that such a transferred employee shall receive the breaking-in guarantee "until their piece work earnings are in excess of this figure". There is no time limit.

Furthermore, the "breaking-in rate" is a guarantee, and if a worker can turn in more than the guarantee, he is entitled to do so and get paid for it. Of course, from then on he is on straight piece work.

Where the training time is incidental, meaning the new job is similar to the old one the guarantees are higher and are for fixed periods, depending on the circumstances.

**HOW MANY MEMBERS
HAVE YOU SIGNED
UP FOR LOCAL 301?**

Wilson's Words Versus GE Actions

The Works News of Feb. 4 quoted parts of GE President Charles E. Wilson's recent statement before the Joint Committee on the President's Economic Report in Washington.

While most GE workers will disagree with Wilson's theories on wages, prices, and profits, it is interesting to compare his expressed opinions with GE's actions.

Wilson said the benefits of increased efficiency must be shared with several groups, including "the customers, in lower prices; the workers, in shorter hours and higher wages . . ."

But, with increased production bringing new all-time record profits, GE raises prices, and fights bitterly against wage raises and shorter hours.

Wilson said it would be wrong to give to labor all the gains of technological improvement . . .

But when a carboloy speed-up doubles production on a machine, GE objects to giving the worker ANY more earnings, even though the work load has actually increased.

Wilson's real thought was this, in the last quoted paragraph in the Works News:

"It is our serious conviction that the present margins (of profit) are lower than they should be . . ."

GE's 1948 profit (after all taxes) is admitted to be 18 per cent above the all-time high of 1947.

ALCO to Stop Cutting Prices on Piece Work

A prolonged dispute between the American Locomotive Company and Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, over the cutting of negotiated piece work prices was settled recently. The company agreed to end its practice of arbitrarily reducing the prices and to reimburse workers for prices slashed in violation of the union contract.

The controversy came to a head last week after three months of grievance sessions. Management last week charged the workers with staging a slowdown. Newspapers played up an ALCO statement that management "closed down" the diesel shop at midnight last Friday, and the story that the shop reopened at 12:01 a. m. Monday after agreement was reached with the union. The diesel shop always closes at midnight Friday for the weekend. No lost time was involved, the union reports.

But Wait Till You See the 301 Girls' Team



The 301 men's basketball team.
Standing, left to right, Richard Graham, Don Restifo, Paul Smith, Walter Hysen and Bobby Grasso.
In front, Bruce Mahoney.

Grievance Sessions On Blocking Aisles

Blocking of the aisles leading from the main bay of Building 60 to Door No. 12 has been the subject of repeated grievance discussions between Shop Steward Marvin Rumrill and Foreman F. Bennett in the past three weeks. Rumrill pointed out that last week a welder fainted in the hot booth, and there was serious difficulty taking him to the ambulance because of the clogged up aisles.

Bennett told Rumrill that supervision was trying to keep the aisles clear. Rumrill has taken the position that more definite action is needed to avoid a real danger.

Union Will Buy Television Set

Local 301 is going to buy a television set and redecorate the rear room of the union hall.

On recommendation of the Executive Board, the membership meeting this week approved these proposals of the Activities Committee. An amendment from the floor authorized the spending of \$800 to \$1,200 for these purposes.

**HAVE YOU HEARD?
There's an Organizing Drive
Give 301 a Boost**

GE Hires 'Expert' To Lobby for T-H

The General Electric Company, leader in the Big Business drive to retain the Taft-Hartley Law, has engaged Gerard Reilly, former member of the National Labor Relations Board, for its anti-labor lobbying work.

Reilly registered as a GE lobbyist at Washington Feb. 7. His salary and expenses were not stated. When questioned by the press, he said he would appear with GE President Charles E. Wilson when he testified before the Senate Labor Committee on the T-H bill.

In 1946 Reilly left the NLRB to go into private law practice. He had been a Labor Department counsel before serving on the NLRB. Labor unions recognize that he has been at the bottom of some of the worst Taft-Hartley activities in Washington.

Reilly appeared Feb. 5 before the Senate Labor Committee as counsel for part of the Printing Industry of America, during a hearing on T-H. Although not called as a witness, he was asked to give his opinions.

Senator Murray attacked him for his anti-union activities. "You built yourself up in this country as a friend of labor," he

Company Checking On Welders' Duties

The company has taken time out in the discussion of job requirements for welders in the Turbine Division. The Works Manager's office also is holding up related grievances on welders' jobs pending discussion of the job requirements. Building 41 told the union last week that they needed another two or three weeks to make a thorough check of welders' duties all over the works before submitting new job descriptions.

The principal point at issue is pipe welding. The company took the position in a recent grievance that pipe welding as such did not necessarily place a man in the "special" \$1.62 welding classification. The Turbine welders say that pipe welding requires a higher quality and skill, and always has been recognized as carrying the "special" rate.

said, "and you got into the position that you got into because you were regarded as a friend of labor, and then when you got in here and got into this powerful position, then you turned around and double-crossed labor."

Senator Taft praised Reilly's "valuable work".

Is Your Shop 100% UE?