

Half-Day Stoppage

(Continued from Page 1)
 in '46 and we can do it again!"
 At Union Hall which was jammed to the walls with UE members overflowing into the streets you heard many a worker say of the stoppage, "if this don't bring the Company around, we'll strike for what we need."

Much of the talk was about how you can't make the pay check stretch from Friday to Friday, shrunken as it is by high taxes, squeezed as it is by high prices — with worse to come.

The half-day stoppage demonstrated to the Company that its employees are united

and determined to get a satisfactory settlement of their wage, pension, insurance and vacation demands. It is now up to the Company to say if it will make a decent offer... without a strike.

A meeting with GE in New York yesterday resulted in no progress, the Company not only sticking to its miserable wage offer but to the percentage form which intensifies inequities and is contrary to the way UE and GE have bargained for 15 years. No further talks are scheduled. Meanwhile UE locals throughout the country and here are going ahead with their strike votes.

Issue In Dock Strike Is...

MONEY.

Despite a 10 cents an hour settlement by the AFL Longshoremen's union, the dock workers hit the bricks because they regarded the settlement, in view of increasing living costs and a low annual wage, as a sell-out.

The corrupt and dictatorial union is trying to break the strike with violence and red-baiting. But the strike is spreading from the New York docks up and down the Atlantic coast.

In addition to more money, the men want an 8-hour work guarantee.

UE ATTORNEY GIVES LEGAL FACTS OF VOTE

A number of workers who were in the 1946 strike and recalled that the strike vote was taken under NLRB supervision have asked why labor board supervision is no longer necessary. The answer by the Union's attorney, Leon Novak, follows:

During the last war, Congress passed the Smith-Connally Act requiring the taking of a strike vote under government supervision in order to place obstacles in the way of workers dissatisfied with their wages and conditions.

As one strike vote followed another, employers realized that the democratic requirement of a strike vote helped bona fide unionism and government supervision was meaningless. The Smith-Connally Act was therefore dropped to be superseded by the Taft-Hartley Act.

UE's contract with GE specifies that employees may engage in strikes, a right fundamental to American democracy. Article XXIV on Economic Issues and Wage Re-

opening states:

"Failing agreement on such (wage) proposals, the Union and its UE Locals should have the right to strike.

UE, unlike IUE-CIO and many AFL and CIO unions, has a constitutional requirement for the taking of a strike vote before a strike may be conducted.

The voting procedures described elsewhere in this page are in accord with law and democratic procedure.

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 Schenectady GE Local 301 UE

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Workmen's Compensation

(This is another in a series of articles written by Leon Novak, UE Local 301's lawyer.)

After a court fight which lasted 2 years and 2 months, Antone Romanowski, a UE member working at the Research Laboratory as a porter, won a verdict of \$4992 against G.E. for injuries which he sustained on August 28, 1949. As a result of a heavy can of iron falling on his left shoulder, Romanowski contracted a painful bursitis in his shoulder.

After the accident, Romanowski was treated at the G.E. Hospital, but owing to the fact that Romanowski does not express himself well in the English language, the Company took the position in court that Romanowski had been treated for a private illness and not an accident.

Foreman Testifies

After nine hearings in court in which a foreman appeared to testify for the company, and in which several doctors and other witnesses also appeared, Romanowski won a verdict of \$4992 for his injuries. The referee in the case rendered a decision in which he said, "I find that sufficient notice of injury was given to prompt investigation" by the General Electric Co. GE however, tried to back away from its responsibility.

Other Awards

On the same day that Romanowski won this verdict, three other workers also won awards in court. Walter Mashuta, a drill press operator in Building 60, won a verdict of \$1843.20 for injuries which he sustained to a leg; Harvey Miller, a machinist in Building 40-3, won the sum of \$640 for injuries to a finger; and John Clements, an accumulator in Building 273, who had previously won \$984 for injuries to a foot with help of the union, received an additional verdict of \$250 for injuries which he received in the same accident to his face.

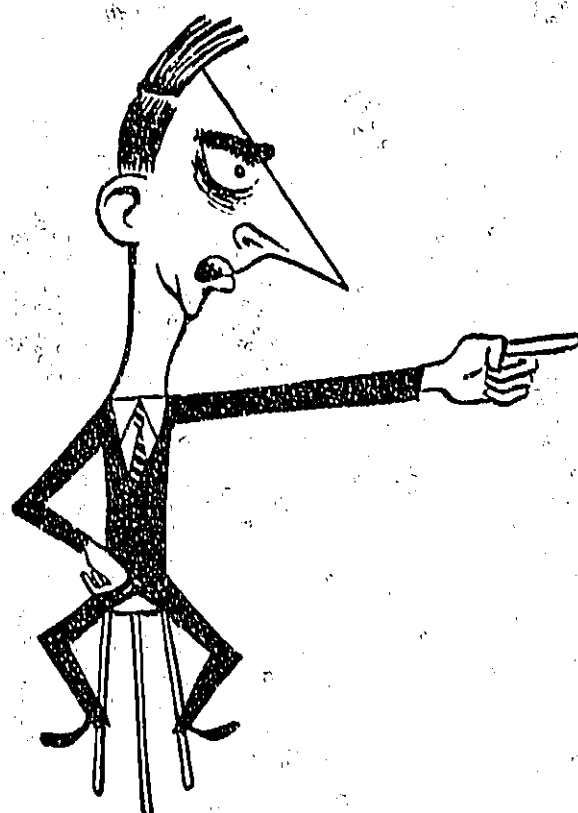
IUE PULLS OUT OF ERIE POLL

The IUE-CIO tucked its tail between its legs and ran out on its petition for an NLRB election in the GE Erie plant.

The Carey clique took to its heels under threat of exposure of its filing of fraudulent election petitions in Erie, Schenectady and in other plants where the IUE-CIO polled far less than the number of claimed cards.

Withdrawal of the IUE-CIO from the "contest" for the big Erie plant followed a blunt letter from UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald to the Taft-Hartley Board in which Fitzgerald accused the board of maintaining "collusive" relations with the company union in the matter of false election petitions.

NEWS ITEM — Lewis F. Male, Schenectady Works Manager, asks that employees keep him supplied with "rumors and gossip" of the plant. Below is an artist's conception of the type of pigeon which reports to management what one's shopmates are saying and doing. The artist has drawn a species of the Mail Informer.



Mayor (Payroll Tax) Begley At It Again

Mayor (Payroll Tax) Begley can't seem to keep his head above hot water. After asking for a 300 percent wage increase for himself while supporting frozen wages for workers, he has come up with a city budget which sharply increases taxes on small property owners (\$5.29 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) while going easy on GE and American Locomotive.

Mayor Begley simply does not believe working people and small property owners are taxed enough. On top of back-breaking Federal tax increases which hit the lower brackets the hardest, he is for increased state income taxes. His big dream is a payroll tax.

*"Begley To Ask Power For City Payroll Tax"—Mayor To Seek State O.K. For Payroll Tax." These are the headlines from the Schenectady Gazette and Union-Star of January 7, 1949.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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VOTE "YES" TODAY

RECORD NUMBER OF GRIEVANCES PILING UP

The shop stewards and members who have been in Bldg. 41 recently on grievances referred to the management, realize that the brush off being given the G.E. workers on their wage demands is comparable with the brush off on local grievances.

The attitude of management expressed by the Asst. to the Manager last Tuesday in referring to the pile of cases accumulated on the second level, which is the last step in the procedure locally, said, "most of these cases should not be here." He did not mean they should be settled in the shop because after discussing many of them, he did not suggest a settlement.

Spurn Contract

For example, there is a grievance affecting the transfer of two members to a higher rated job. The contract provides under these circumstances a rate of two steps below the job and the job rate paid within six months. The Asst. Manager said he did not agree with that provision in the contract and advised the committee to bring the case to New York.

10,000 AT G.M. VOTE FOR STRIKE

The United Press reported last Monday that some 10,000 production and maintenance workers at General Motor's electromotive division in Chicago, Ill. voted in favor of a strike over a company speed-up program. The workers are represented by UAW-CIO.

Strikes over price-cutting and speed-up are sharply on the increase throughout the country. In many cases a poor wage settlement was the signal for Company attacks on rates and conditions and resulted in walkouts.

Ballots Will Give UE Board Power to Fight Crackdown on Wages, Conditions

UE members in Schenectady, Erie and other GE plants vote today to authorize the UE-GE Conference Board to call a strike if future negotiations fail to produce a wage offer acceptable to the membership. After the strike vote, the UE Negotiations Committee will meet with the Company. The size of the

vote backing the Committee's demands for hourly pay increases of 15 cents for piece workers and 20 cents for day workers will determine its bargaining strength.



MEETING—UE 301 Members and Stewards Monday, Nov. 5, 1951 2nd SHIFT—1:30 P.M. (before work). 1st and 3rd SHIFTS—7:30 P.M. at Union Hall, 301 Liberty St. **REPORT OF WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS. ELECTION OF DISTRICT DELEGATES AND ELECTION COMMITTEE.**

vote backing the Committee's demands for hourly pay increases of 15 cents for piece workers and 20 cents for day workers will determine its bargaining strength.

The ballots to be distributed starting this morning provide for a "yes" vote or a "no" vote. "Yes" means the UE-GE Conference Board of shop delegates is in a position to take any necessary action to win a satisfactory settlement of wage and other demands. A big "Yes" means you want to make a stand now for settlements based on your needs and not on what is cooked up between GE and the IUE.

"No" means that whatever wage sellout is engineered between GE and IUE-CIO now or in the future becomes the pattern for the Schenectady Works. "No" means no fight and greenlights Company attacks on rates and conditions.

The voting procedure described in detail on page 2 guarantees every UE member an opportunity to cast a ballot, the ballots to be counted on the spot. Similar procedure is being followed in Erie where advance reports indicate an overwhelming majority for authorizing the UE-GE Conference Board to set a strike date when and if it becomes necessary.

The strike situation is of the Company's making and while UE members do not seek a strike, neither will they vote to discard labor's most powerful and indispensable weapon.

Questions and Answers On The Strike Vote

DOES A YES VOTE MEAN WE GO ON STRIKE?

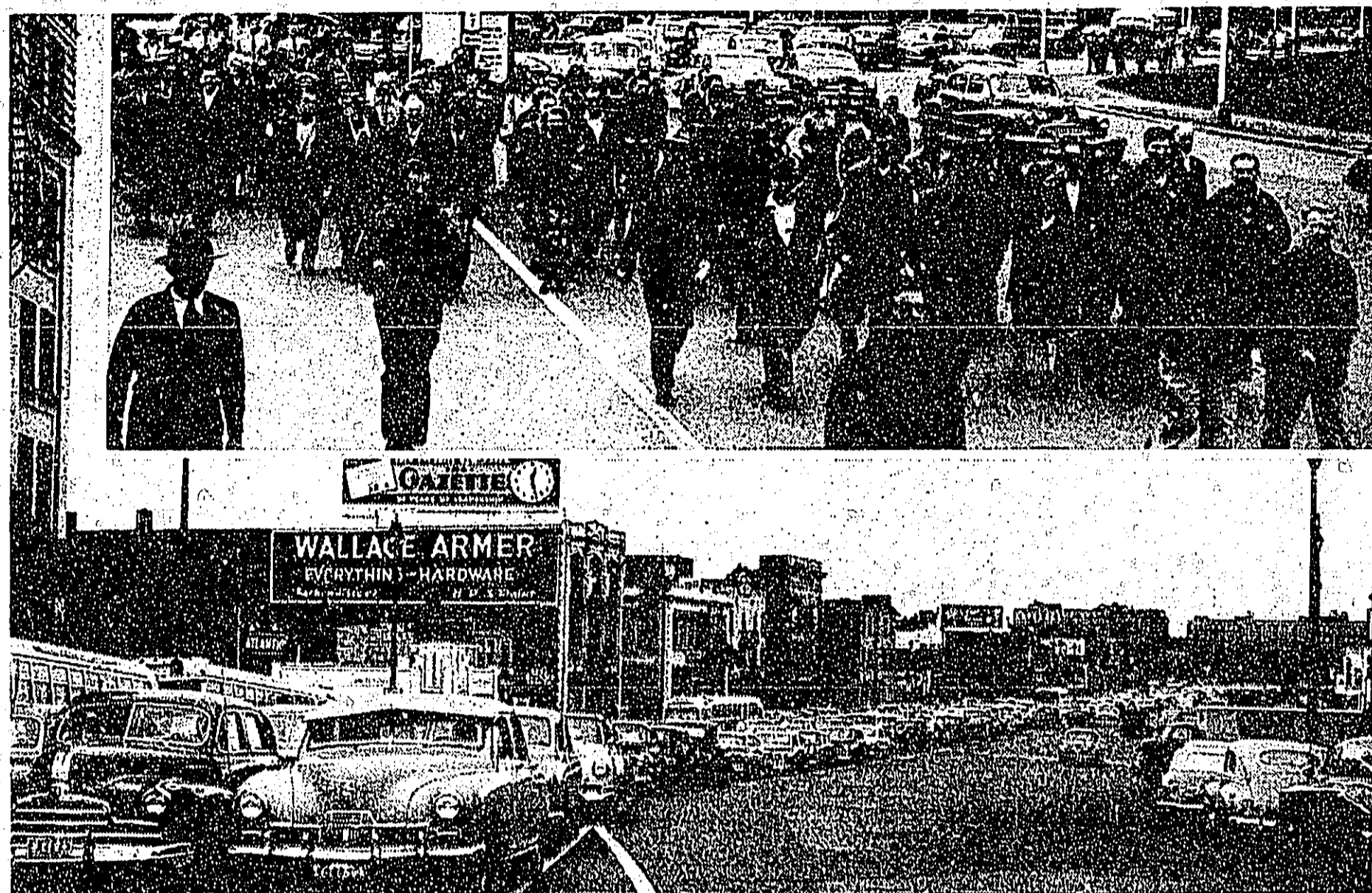
Once there is a vote for a strike, our national negotiating committee will renew its efforts to negotiate a settlement acceptable to the membership. It will confront Management with the "argument" of the strike vote. That's bargaining strength, proof that the membership is united, determined and not bluffing. If the Company continues to refuse to make a satisfactory offer, the UE Conference Board of shop delegates can call a strike.

WHAT IF WE TAKE THE COMPANY OFFER?

It would mean, first, that we would have less real money for ourselves and our families. It would make it easier for GE to conspire with IUE-CIO against our wages and conditions. It would be the signal for a wave of rate cuts, overloading, speed-up. We would find ourselves at some future date forced to strike over grievances. That's what is happening in auto where Reuther froze wages for the next 5 years. That's what's happening in Ft. Wayne where 9,000 GE workers, sold out by Carey's settlement with GE, went out on strike over a methods change and price cut affecting one man.

WOULD A STRIKE BE WORTH THE HARDSHIP?

In a union such as our's, we strike only when and if we are forced to strike. We are being forced by inflationary and tax pressures. We are being forced by GE's refusal to deal fairly with us. We are forced by the GE-IUE tie-up. The 1946 strike, provoked by Management, won us a raise of 18½ cents across the board, two substantial raises in the next two years, paid holidays and other benefits.



STOPPAGE—The half-day walkout last Thursday demonstrated the unity and determination of GE workers to get what they need in wages and conditions. "The industrial giant was stilled," said the Schenectady Gazette. Both local papers called it a "show of strength." Along with the

Schenectady Works, Knolls I, Malta and the GE Airport were cleaned out 90 per cent. Note the clock in the above picture; it shows that traffic away from GE was packed to the curb even as late as 12:29 P.M. GE workers want to be dealt with fairly, is what the stoppage proclaimed.

We came out of the strike stronger and richer by several thousand dollars. We would prefer to get recognition of our just demands without strike action. That's up to the Company.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CONTRACT IF WE STRIKE?

It remains in full force and effect. The contract provision on wage re-opening states that if we strike over the wage re-opening, the contract shall continue in effect.

CAN UE BREAK THROUGH THE WAGE FREEZE?

Unions throughout the country are making and winning wage demands over the wage ceiling. Mine, Mill broke through for 20c an hour.

Lockheed Aircraft crashed through with a 8 percent increase. The WSB last month okayed an above-the-ceiling 13c increase for the rubber workers. Even Phil Murray, a major prop of the wage freeze board, is being forced by the steelworkers to draft wage demands way above the wage freeze ceiling. Wage

freeze regulations have force and effect only if labor abides by them. This is admitted by business and government. The New York Times on October 17 wrote that if Reuther had refused to listen to the Wage Freeze Board in two recent strikes "the board's value in future cases would be doubtful."

WHERE AND WHEN DO WE VOTE?

Today. In the plant. Your steward will give you a ballot. You will sign for it. Make your mark. Place your ballot in the ballot box. The ballots will be counted in the plant by two tellers chosen by the steward from among you. The results will be tabulated then and there. Tabulation and ballots will be brought to Union Hall. There, it will become part of a permanent record, showing the results, building by building, department by department, unit by unit and available for inspection by any union man or woman.

WHO CAN VOTE?

Union members, meaning those on check-off, including those who have signed dues check-off authorization cards and those who make application for check-off before voting. Every union member will get a chance to vote and be counted. That's the heart of the procedure.

The Company Says "No" To

Day Workers

Women

Skilled Trades

VOTE "YES" ON YOUR BALLOT

Equality of Sacrifice

When the new cigarette tax takes effect, the rich man and the poor man will have an equal chance to pay one cent more for a pack of cigarettes.

How Much of Your Pay Will Go For Taxes? How Does the New Income Tax Affect Premium Pay? What New Taxes Are Coming Soon?

Starting with your next pay checks, you will be getting 2 percent less weekly take-home pay. Call it the increased income tax or a wage cut. It amounts to the same thing. And it makes the 2½ percent wage offer look sick.

Yesterday a flock of new Federal excise taxes (sales taxes to you) went into effect. Although these levies on consumer goods are supposed to be paid by the manufacturers, many took newspaper ads openly boasting that they were passing the tax on to us. For weeks, merchants in certain lines have been urging, "BUY NOW AND SAVE... TAXES ON NOV. 1."

Well, yesterday was Nov. 1 and starting yesterday, the total tax burden (including State and local, direct and indirect) will be 25 percent of your wages. A family of four with an income of \$65 a week will now be paying \$15 a week in all forms of taxation.

Worse Coming

But hold your hat! The New York Times of October 30 reports that "Congressional leaders anticipate Administration requests for \$8 billion more before next summer to meet defense costs not included in appropriations already approved." The last tax bill was for about \$5.7 billion so you can figure out what \$8 billion more is going to mean in increased taxes on the working people. That 2½ percent offer keeps looking worse and worse!

On the other hand, a close study of the new tax set-up reveals that big corporations like General Electric and its wealthy stock holders are going to do better than ever. Twenty-three additional loopholes in the latest tax measure more than offset the moderate increases in corporation taxes. All sorts of schemes such as phony family

partnerships, "new" companies, joint reports which help families above the \$10,000 a year bracket will make tax-dodging a sport easier and more popular than ever among the rich.

But the working man and woman will pay for this game. Take a look at what the new income tax will do to your overtime. A worker earning \$80 a week, who works overtime Saturday and is paid an additional \$20.00 has his weekly withholding tax increased nearly five bucks. That's the same as getting time-and-a-quarter instead of time-and-a-half.

Or take a man whose regular

pay is \$2 an hour. Say, he works Saturday at time-and-a-half and Sunday at double time in addition to his full 40-hour week. His increased income tax will take away nearly \$13 of the \$24 in premium pay!

The UE tax principle is that no American family should be taxed below a decent standard of living. The present distribution of taxation is reducing the living standards of working people. But while tax reform is an important part of UE's legislative fight, the only way we can help ourselves now is by getting a substantial wage increase from GE now.

Local Rates, Conditions Tied To Wage Fight Says Jandreau

Approximately 45,000 GE workers working in 43 plants of the GE Company throughout the country are being forced to take strike action to protect their jobs and their conditions of employment, Leo Jandreau, UE 301 Business Agent, said today. Mr. Boulware is swinging a two-edged sword against GE workers, attacking their standard of living on the national wage front and duplicating the job locally through price cutting, speed-up and a do-nothing policy in local grievance procedure.

The Boulware-Carey back door deal which forced thousands of GE workers to accept an inadequate wage increase did not settle the problems of the workers.

In Ft. Wayne, Ind., G.E. workers were forced to strike for four days last week, nine thousand of them, because of a price cut. The local union claimed the strike was also in protest against the low wages being paid to G.E. workers in that plant compared to the wages paid by other Ft. Wayne com-

panies. The Company claimed in a printed statement that they could not understand it because they had just completed a wage settlement with the IUE-CIO covering the Ft. Wayne plant.

The Toolmakers in Pittsfield, Mass., have voted to strike for a 25c an hour increase, after the 2½ percent wage offer was accepted by the IUE. The same reaction to Carey sellout deals is happening in the Westinghouse Company with the Buffalo Westinghouse workers on strike now for several weeks, fighting to get back the union seniority protection they had for 10 years while under the banner of UE.

Mr. Boulware's plans are not complete. He still must maneuver the balance of the G.E. workers into the same spot if he can.

In the past few months the national attitude of the Company is being reflected in the settlement of grievances locally. There are more complaints at the management level today constituting unsettled grievances than there ever has been during the past 15 years of local negotiations. There is a

Steelworkers Demand Wage Fight By Murray

Steelworkers, defying the wage freeze policy of their leaders, are driving for wage increases of from 18½ cents to 30 cents an hour.

They have served notice on their leaders through "wild cat strikes" and thousands of resolutions that they don't intend to let the CIO-supported Wage Freeze Board stand in the way of their wage demands.

In a correct estimate of the membership situation, the New York Times of October 29 said that "the union would not be content with a pay rise of 5 or 6 cents an hour, the maximum that would be permissible under current regulations of the Wage Stabilization Board."

When the unions wage policy committee meets in Atlantic City, November 14-16, it will have before it more than 3,000 resolutions from steel locals demanding a substantial increase in wages and other benefits.

growing number of complaints from G.E. workers because of the general tightening up by management through their foremen on all conditions of employment. Proof of this unrest among the workers has been demonstrated by the numerous stoppages throughout the plant in the past six months.

GE workers, through their Union, the UE, in Schenectady and nationally, have always tried to work out their problems through negotiation. That attitude is a matter of record over the period of 15 years with only one strike. That same attitude exists today. We want to bargain for a just and reasonable settlement.

The Company, on the other hand, up to the present time has refused so today GE workers in Schenectady and throughout the country will be forced to take a strike vote in order to notify the Company that they expect reasonable consideration for their just demands and cannot afford to give up the working conditions and standards that have been won and established over the last 15 years of collective bargaining.

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