

## Interference Cases Go to Howell Level

Local 301 this week moved to the Howell level its complaint against supervisory interference in the union's internal affairs, after A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, refused to take action in the matter.

Stevens refused to call the accused engineer and piece rate man to Bldg. 41 to face the committee.

The case involved remarks by George L. Sholtes, piece rate man, to Joseph Rotundo, Bldg. 73A shop steward, that the union is "run by Reds", and a suggestion by E. D. Van Nordstrand, industrial heating and welding engineer in Bldg. 96, to Smeralda De Cesare, that he seek promotion with the company by supporting the so-called "Democratic Action" group in the union.

Stevens said he knew Sholtes and believed his denial. He said he believed Rotundo was the one who had started the discussion. The union committee pointed out that Rotundo was in the room to back up his charges, while the company was refusing to let Sholtes face his accusers.

### Van Nordstrand Interference

As to Van Nordstrand, Stevens said he had not talked to him and would not, because the engineer was not De Cesare's supervisor and could not make commitments for the company. He admitted that he knew Van Nordstrand had held discussions with De Cesare, but refused to go into what he had said. The union pointed out that Van Nordstrand was the man who actually gave De Cesare his orders, and was obviously in a position of authority to influence workers.

Stevens said he felt De Cesare had been trying to "lead on" Van Nordstrand into making improper statements. The union pointed out that Van Nordstrand had taken the initiative in drawing De Cesare into a discussion and suggesting he could get him promoted.

Stevens insisted it was not the company's policy to interfere in the union's affairs.

### Many Such Cases

Members of the committee stressed that these two cases were only the more specific acts out of a whole series of such actions by supervision in various parts of the plant. It was pointed out that groups had walked out on their work and that another group had called a meeting during the lunch hour, each time in support of the so-called "Democratic Action" faction, and that there had not been the slightest protest from supervision. The contrast with the com-

## Injury Cases Taken To Union Attorney

Twelve members of Local 301 took their workmen's compensation cases to the union's lawyer, Leon Novak, during the first week this free service was open to them, last week. Two of the cases involved serious injuries. All 12 cases will go to hearings before the Workmen's Compensation Bureau.

Mr. Novak is available to the members on workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance cases, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday inclusive, at the UE District 3 office, 271 State St., Room 8. He also can be seen at other times by appointment made through the Local 301 office.

## 301 Nominations This Month

The membership meeting of Local 301, which will be conducted in two parts Nov. 18 and 19 at the union hall, will nominate officers for 1948. First and third shift workers will meet at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 and second shift workers at 1 p.m. Nov. 19.

## Price Control Petition

All Local 301 shop stewards have received petitions to circulate in their shops, asking Congressman Bernard W. Kearney to vote for price control legislation. The petition asks for legislation with enforcement power and a big enough appropriation to enforce it.

## Varnish Makers to Meet

All three shifts of varnish makers, in Bldgs. 67, 71, 75, and 79 will meet jointly at 10 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at the union hall, Liberty Street and Erie Boulevard, to discuss their wage rates.

pany's attitude when such things occurred in support of union action was obvious.

It also pointed out that on the previous day a foreman in Bldg. 69 had told a shop steward there not to listen to Board member Stanley Bishop, when he was called to advise the steward.

The union was represented by President Andrew Peterson, Vice-President William Hodges, Recording Secretary Helen Quirini, Chief Steward William Mastriani, Board members William Stewart, Leland Sisto, Willard Kuschel, James Cognetta, Alfred Pelrah, Anthony Esposito, and Stanley Bishop, and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent.

## Vosburg Praises 301-PAC Program

In a radio talk Election Eve, Leo H. Vosburg, county public welfare commissioner, said that to him the PAC-301 program "spells out the American way of life. It meets the problems not just of the working people, but of the whole community."

Commissioner Vosburg said he welcomed "this opportunity to wind up my campaign for reelection—on a broadcast sponsored by the Political Action Committee of Local 301."

Discussing attacks which had been made on his administration of his office, Vosburg declared it was very important to him that he had "earned the praise of the representatives of 14,000 GE workers."

"Local 301 sent a representative committee to make a thorough inquiry into the charges," he said, "and then found the attacks had no basis in fact and that I deserved the continued support of the working people of Schenectady."

(The 301 committee also pointed out the political nature of the charges suddenly made against Vosburg, and his splendid record of cooperating with the union during the strike.)

"As we go into that solemn duty which is Election Day," Vosburg said, "I want to urge upon all of you the alert citizenship of groups such as the CIO union at GE which keeps its members informed on public issues, and makes its endorsements on the basis of a program."

Vosburg was reelected on the Republican and ALP tickets.

## Union Food Store

(Continued from Page 1)

soup, mayonnaise, salad dressing and corned beef. There are 10 cases each of peas, corn and cranberry sauce (24 cans to a case), two cases each of tuna, mayonnaise and salad dressing and five cases of each of the other foods. The orange juice is available in both large and small cans.

In addition, there will be 45 cases of soap flakes and 25 cases of white soap. Fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs have also been ordered as usual.

Chairman Cognetta has sent out another SOS for volunteer workers.



Leo H. Vosburg

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

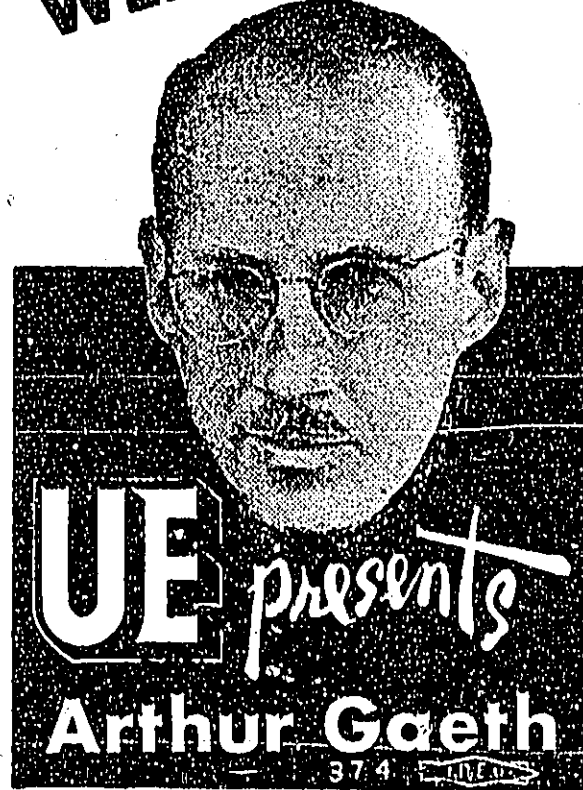
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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 14, 1947

EVERY WEDNESDAY!



7:30 p.m. on WSNY, WROW and WBCA (FM).

## 301 Food Store Gets Full-Time Manager

So many Local 301 families are seizing the chance to reduce their food expenses by shopping at the union's Food Center that a full-time manager has been hired for the store.

On recommendation of the local's Food-Price Committee, the Executive Board voted to employ Irving Yulman, former manager of the Schenectady Consumers' Co-Op, to run the Food Center at 1027 State St. Mr. Yulman was connected with the Co-Op management for six years. He started work for 301 this week.

### Will Sell Meat Today

The store, which will be open today from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., will have 500 small smoked picnic hams, 500 one-pound bags of sausage meat and 500 one-pound packages of bacon on sale. This will be the first time meat has been available, except for cans of corned beef.

Business last weekend set a new record of \$8,100 in sales. The cash register had to do so much work that the committee has bought an additional one. A total of 982 people made purchases last

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## Wage Structure Proposal Sent To Howell; Stewards Okay Plan

Local 301 this week sent to Works Manager J. M. Howell the union proposal of a complete wage structure for the plant. The proposal was approved Tuesday by unanimous vote of the Shop Stewards' Council acting under authority from the membership.

The proposal prepared by the Job Evaluation Committee was sent to all stewards last week. On stewards' suggestions certain changes were made before final action.

### 15 Job Groups

The proposal would group all jobs in the plant, day work as well as piece work, in 15 labor grades, according to the job "value"—the requirements in skill, responsibility, and working conditions. It would not mean a general increase, but, within the general framework of present rates, would raise those jobs whose rates are out of line.

It would also establish a definite relationship between the piece work AER (Anticipated Earning Rate) and the job rate (or day work rate), by fixing the AER at the job rate plus a 15% incentive factor. It would establish pro-

gression to the job rate for piece workers as well as day workers.

### Same Committee to Negotiate

The Executive Board named the Job Evaluation Committee to negotiate the proposal. The committee includes William Stewart, Eugene Lemoine, James Cognetta, Charles Ferris, Mary McCartin, Anthony Villano, Michael Tedisco, Alfred Pelrah, and George Judway. William Templeton alternated for Ferris in the committee's survey. In negotiations, the committee will be assisted by President Andrew Peterson, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent.

The proposal represents six months' study of jobs in the plant by the committee. Claims as to inequities in rates were submitted to the committee through the stewards.

## First Section Night Planned for Dec. 5

A Section Night program has been arranged for workers in Bldgs. 85, 96, 101, 105, 107 and 109 from 8 p.m. to midnight Dec. 5 at 301 Hall. There will be dancing, movies and refreshments. Anthony Villano's orchestra will play.

The Activities Committee will schedule other Section Nights after the new year starts. George Judway is chairman and Edward La Bombard, secretary.

## Blood Donors Needed

Blood donors are still needed to replace 10 pints of blood received by Edward P. Ryan, 301 shop steward, from the Ellis Hospital blood bank before his death Aug. 22. Blood donations from union members will help relieve the Ryan family of a heavy financial burden.

An appeal also has been made for donations to replace blood received by Samuel P. Mabb of Bldg. 17.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100 PER CENT UNION.

## \$100 for Hudson Strike

The Executive Board of Local 301 voted Monday to give \$100 to the UE strike at the McCall Refrigerator Company, Hudson.

## Union Starts Survey Of Veterans' Skills

The Executive Board has ordered that a survey be made in the plant to determine whether war veterans are employed where their skills are fully utilized.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau has mailed to all shop stewards forms for veterans to fill out, to give information on their training.

In his letter to the stewards, Jandreau said, "Many veterans acquired skills while in the armed forces that could afford them higher rated jobs. Then too, veterans have not been given consideration for the time out during the war as it affects upgrading."



## Company Chisels On Overtime Pay

The union has filed a grievance directly on the Howell level over the company's chiseling on overtime payments for third shift workers in the Turbine Division.

When the Turbine dispute was settled with an 8 hour day for the first and second shifts and a 6½ hour day for the third shift, it was the union's understanding that third shift workers would receive time and a half pay after 6½ hours.

Recently 45 to 50 people in Bldg. 49 have been working 11½ hours on the third shift. The company has refused to pay overtime except for the time over 8 hours. Management claims that when these workers' schedule went from 6½ hours to the present long shift, that their work day became 8 hours.

When Assistant General Foreman Morton was asked on what basis the Thanksgiving holiday pay would be figured, he said that the third shift would get 6½ hours pay.

The union then queried Bldg. 41 and was told that the long hours of work would be ended for the third shift before Thanksgiving arrived.

The union's docket covers the Thanksgiving pay as well as the general overtime case.

During discussion on the Turbine hours last summer, the union argued that by overlapping it would be possible to put everyone on an 8 hour shift. But management took a stand against overlapping shifts. There's been plenty of overlapping since the third shift went on the 11½ hour schedule.

## 24-Cent Raises

Toronto, Can. (UENS)—A recently won wage increase of five cents plus six paid holidays brings the total increase won by UE Local 614 at the L.C. Smith & Corona Typewriter plant during the year the union has been organized to 24.6 cents.

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## Nominating Meeting

The 301 membership meeting next week will nominate candidates for the offices of the local. It will be a two-part meeting, with first and third shift workers meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, and second shift workers meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19. Election of officers will be in December.

## To Refuse Overtime

Varnish makers in Bldgs. 67, 71, 75 and 79 by a unanimous standing vote last Saturday decided to refuse all overtime until the company agrees to pay them the one-cent raise granted to the varnish makers elsewhere in the plant.

Virtually all the men from all three shifts were present at the meeting. They refused overtime in order to attend. Action was taken after full discussion of the discrimination in rates against the group. There also was considerable dissatisfaction over payment of B rates to men doing A work.

## Now It's a Different Story, Work Shortage in Bldg. 60

In contrast with statements made by supervision when the Turbine Division workers were fighting the 7½ hour shift, Foreman Barney Gardener told his department on the West Gallery of Bldg. 60 last week that there would be no more overtime on the large turret lathes for the present, except in case of emergency.

The men point out that they had been told there would be so much work that overtime would be required indefinitely. Gardener said he did not know how long the work shortage would last, but that he expected another flood of work in the near future.

## Help Reduce Prices

Worried about the high cost of living?

Then be sure you sign the union's petition demanding that Congressman Bernard W. Kearney vote for price control legislation. Stewards are circulating the petitions in the shops.

## Franken, Other Candidates Heard on 301 Broadcast

Four candidates backed by 301-PAC spoke on the regular 301 radio program the night before election.

They are Bernard J. Franken, who was elected supervisor from the Ninth Ward the next day on the Democratic and ALP slates; William Alheim, Local 301 member, re-elected Rotterdam supervisor on the Republican and ALP tickets; and Marie Sweeney, 301 member, and Milo Lathrop, UE District 3 legislative director, ALP candidates for City Council.

Franken said that such a disgraceful law as the "Taft-Hartley affair" would not be on the statute books "if Franklin D. Roosevelt were alive and with us today."

He praised the 301-PAC program for supporting "the Roosevelt program of peace, jobs and security."

Franken said he didn't see how city policemen and firemen feed their families on their low pay. He urged that salaries of city and county workers "be brought into line with union standards in local industries."

## GE Gets Technical Over 3 Days Service

A technical interpretation under which a woman worker was held to have been out of the plant for three days over a year was enough for the company to break her service. The union, which had challenged the ruling, was advised this week that the company pension board had refused to change the decision. The pension board does not discuss cases with the union, and the company has so far refused to submit its actions to arbitration as required by the contract.

The woman was laid-off May 10, 1946, and checked out May 13. She was interviewed and rehired May 9, 1947, but actually started work again May 13, 1947. Interpreting the date in her favor at either end would have preserved her service. The company insisted that the time out must be figured on the last day at work and first day on the job.

## Get a Booklet

The union office has a supply on hand of national CIO booklets analyzing the Taft-Hartley Act.

## It's the Same the Wide World Over When Workers Ask Raise from 'Generous Electric' Company

GE workers in Cuba have asked Local 301 to help them get a pay raise. It seems GE can say "No" in Spanish as well as in English.

## Grievance Filed Over Moving Job

For over one year two operators on assembly of grid resistors in Bldg. 89 tried to show that a certain job on which they work should be rated as Class A at \$1.26 instead of B at \$1.18. The men actually developed the job.

Finally Shop Steward Joseph Hils got Foreman A. C. Schlansker to admit it was an A job, and to agree to pay the rate. But at the same time Schlansker announced that the job "probably belongs" in another section and would be done there in the future.

The union has filed a formal grievance charging that the action by Schlansker in moving the job constitutes retaliation for union action in enforcing the men's rights, and is intended to intimidate others who insist on their rights.

## More Aprons Needed, Management Admits

Louis Male, assistant to the general superintendent, told Leo Jandreau in a grievance meeting Monday that a plant survey, made because of a union grievance, showed that there were some jobs where the workers should be furnished aprons, where they are not now furnished.

The union had filed a general grievance, asking that aprons be made available free to all workers who want them. Male said the company would not agree to this, but that it would furnish aprons where the job called for it because of unusual difficulties, dirt, or hazards. He said that groups which felt their conditions called for aprons as part of the job should take the matter up with the foreman.

## Child Care Meeting

Since Governor Dewey killed the state's Child Care Center program this fall, only a few Schenectady centers are still open.

The Child Care Parents Organization, which is making every effort to keep these centers alive, has called a public meeting for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 at Nott Terrace High School on the problem. Dr. Roma Gans, education professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, will speak.

The letter from the president of the GE Cubana Workers Union carried the notation in Spanish that it had been sent to "Secretary General Andrew Peterson, Bldg. 52, Schenectady, chief of the CIO in that city, and to all the employees of the International General Electric Co."

Last April the Cuban union asked the company to revise its contract and grant a pay increase. After M. T. McGovern, president of the Cuban GE company, said "No" for several months, the union appealed to the Ministry of Labor. McGovern considered this action insulting, the letter reported, and informed the union "that he was the captain of the ship."

The Cuban GE has established a record in sales and profits, but pays lower than other companies in the same line, the union's letter pointed out. The workers complain they can't live on their present salaries "as self-respecting human beings."

The union head asked President Peterson "to study our problem and to act if you deem it just and proper in our behalf." The letter has been referred to the international UE office for information.

## Union Petition Requests State St. Parking Ban

A petition is being circulated in the shops, under authorization of the Local 301 Executive Board, asking the city to relieve traffic congestion in lower State St. The petition requests that parking be forbidden in State St. between Church St. and Erie Blvd. from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on the north side of State St. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the south side for a trial period of 30 days.

Local 301 representatives on the city-wide traffic commission have pointed out that workers are late getting to the plant and getting home because of traffic tie-ups in lower State St.

Willard Kuschel of Local 301 told the group the union would circulate a petition on the subject. Anthony Villano, another 301 representative, said stores wouldn't lose business through the parking ban "because you can't find a place to park in State St. anyway." Mary McCartin was the third 301 member at the conference.

Union members with complaints about transportation should contact the 301 Transportation Committee at the union hall.