

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

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Friday, March 26, 1954

UE STALLS ELECTION!

For two hours and 20 minutes Wednesday afternoon UE's New York City boys complained, criticized, spied and appealed at the NLRB hearing at Court House in attempts to delay an election. Then David Scribner, UE Attorney, picked up his brief case and asked for an extension of the hearing until some time in the future on grounds that he had to "catch a train"!

Local 422, Bloomfield GE, Quits UE, Joins IUE-CIO

Another big GE shop has quit UE!

On Monday, March 22, the Officers, Executive Board and Shop Stewards of UE Local 422, Bloomfield, N. J., voted to disaffiliate from UE and affiliate with IUE-CIO.

This was followed by a membership meeting Wednesday night when the vote was 710 to 88 to get out of UE and unite with 98,000 other GE workers in IUE-CIO. In taking their vote, Local 422 members took full recognition of the importance of the decision by Local 301 to unite the entire GE chain in one Union.

They all agreed that UE is through in GE.

Local 422 was the last GE plant held by UE in District 4.

The decision was overwhelming in spite of a last-minute appeal to the Bloomfield leaders to stay in UE by Joe Dermody, one of the New York City boys who made a mad dash to Bloomfield from Schenectady. For the past two weeks Dermody has been in Schenectady trying to drum up some form of leadership for the UE.

Leading the group that endorsed IUE-CIO in this GE local are President George Siggins and Chief Steward Charles Ziegler.

Bloomfield GE is an Air Conditioning plant. It presently employs approximately 1,400 people and is growing due to the expansion of air conditioning by GE.

Action by Local 422 followed by one week the move made by Local 301 to unite the entire GE chain in IUE-CIO.

The same day as Local 301 disaffiliated, the members of Local 1227 GE in Long Island City did the same thing.

Just previous to the disaffiliation by Local 422, the 1,000 members of UE Local 429, Newark GE Lamp, also disaffiliated by overwhelming votes at two membership

meetings. Newark workers are now awaiting their election so they can officially confirm their membership in IUE-CIO.

In the meantime, UE has shown its contempt for the rights of members in Newark as they have in Schenectady. After the leadership of Local 429 recommended that the membership join IUE-CIO, UE's ever-present National Officers moved in.

They declared that the elected officers did not represent the members. So they appointed their own "representatives." A woman who had been an insignificant division steward was suddenly told that she was "President" of the Local and that 11 people who came to her meeting were the "membership."

So the pattern is the same everywhere. As soon as the members exert their democratic rights and show that they intend to run their own affairs, UE's New York City Officers, with their New York lawyers and their New York organizers move in and take over.

That's democracy — UE style!

Probably never before in the history of the Labor Board has there been such a shoddy display of deliberate stalling.

Scribner stalled on everything.

He objected on minor points.

He made speeches on even less important points.

He interrupted others at practically every sentence.

He complained about this; he elaborated on that; he dillyed and he dallied.

But on the whole he exposed UE as no one else could have exposed it. He showed it for what it really is: An outfit that will resort to any trick, any scheme, in order to maintain control over a disintegrating organization.

The result was that the NLRB Officer extended the hearing until 10 a.m. Friday.

Any delay is what the outsiders want. It will give them time, they hope, to bring other outside interests into the picture and make some phony kind of "showing of support" that will permit them to drag out the hearing even longer.

The outfit UE is using as a last-ditch roadblock is the IAM. IAM came to the hearing and even tried to take part in it, despite the fact that it had no evidence of support. The Hearing Officer finally told them they should stay out unless they show proof of an interest.

(See special story on UE-IAM collusion on page 3.)

Before the hearing was ended, the company agreed that there is a definite schism in the plant and that stability of production requires an early election should be held.

It was at that point that Scribner suddenly had to "catch a train". He ought to buy a one-way ticket!

Outsiders Base Campaign on Rumors, Fear, Smear, Lies and Confusion

UE's campaign of rumors, fear, smear and confusion is continuing.

In case you haven't heard, the latest lie is that in IUE-CIO you stand to lose money. When you question these professional liars from New York City, Rome and elsewhere as to just how you can lose money, they answer: "Don't worry about how—you will lose."

They can't tell you how you will lose. So they try to scare people into making them think they might lose.

The truth is that nothing will be lost.

The IUE-CIO Contract provides the same piece-work safeguards and protection of standard prices as the UE Contract. Both provide for maintenance of the "same hourly earnings."

The basic provisions of UE's current Contract with GE were won when all GE workers were united in one Union—the CIO.

Furthermore, the important thing is just how strong and able a Local Union is in carrying out its responsibilities.

It is this militant policing of our Local Seniority Supplement and processing of griev-

ances that has enabled Local 301 to win the highest rates and the best conditions of any UE shop in the GE chain. The National Officers were not responsible for winning what we have today. In fact, if Schenectady GE workers relied only on the UE Contract and did not back it up with militant application, every GE worker would see an immediate loss in his wages and conditions.

It is the application that counts. And that application will continue in IUE-CIO just as it has in the past.

But in IUE-CIO, Local 301 members can be sure of winning an improved National Contract, for then we will be united with almost 100,000 GE workers throughout the country.

Cognetta Raps Disruption By The Outsiders

Last week the outside organizers, with the aid of outside lawyers, again tried to wreck the grievance machinery of Local 301 and work untold hardship on the members in a desperate effort to prevent Schenectady GE workers from uniting with the great majority of all GE employees.

This time UE sent a telegram, signed by UE Lawyer David Scribner, to GE officials in New York and in Schenectady. The telegram, dated March 18, stated that the elected representatives of Local 301 members "no longer represent GE employees."

It further stated that the duly elected leaders of Local 301 "have no right" to carry out legitimate Local affairs.

Local 301 President James Cognetta exposed this plot against GE workers at a meeting of the Local Executive Board Monday night.

President Cognetta said that the National Officers of UE think they are "dictators who can tell the members 301 who can be their officers and who cannot."

He went on to say that "These outsiders have never settled a grievance in our plant and probably wouldn't know how to if they ever got the chance. But they are here in Schenectady right now trying to tell the members who they can elect to handle their grievances and who they cannot elect."

"Since when," Cognetta continued, "do these outsiders tell us who can represent the people and who can't? In Local 301 we run our own affairs and if the members decide that somebody will do a good job for them, that is who they elect to represent them as officers, executive board members and stewards."

The National Officers of UE tried to wreck the grievance procedure a week earlier when they tried to get a phony injunction preventing the Local from using funds. This was aimed directly at wrecking the grievance machinery, for if it had succeeded, Stewards could not be paid for their time spent handling grievances.

That plot failed the same way as the phony telegram.

UE Brings In IAM To Split The Local and Stall For Time

The UE and the IAM have entered into an infamous deal to hurt the interests of GE workers by stalling an election.

The story is typical of the complete disregard that outsiders like Mike Jiminez have for the welfare of GE workers. In fact, Jiminez was the main force in bringing IAM into the picture.

He contacted IAM last weekend and agreed to give IAM the toolmakers if IAM would go into the NLRB and "stall hell out of things." Although it knew it had no support in the shop, IAM agreed.

Because IAM had no support and actually knew nothing about problems or conditions in the shop, Jiminez turned over a list of names and addresses to the IAM organizer.

Because IAM was so weak, Jiminez had to go even further. He had to supply physical help to get the phony IAM "boom" off the ground. He called people out of the plant on lost-time paid by UE to work for IAM.

Suddenly another worker, Joe Aschenbach of Bldg. 273, second shift, blossomed out as a leader of this IAM card-signing campaign. While Joe is working for IAM, his wife Celia, of Bldg. 269, is one of the main leaders of the UE's woman's campaign.

There are many other examples of this collusion. At the hearing Wednesday UE didn't raise a finger to prevent IAM from trying to intervene and carve out a unit that has been in Local 301 from the very day the local was organized.

Only IUE-CIO exposed the IAM's attempt at intervention without a single signed card.

However, the IAM will make a desperate try to sign a few cards by the time the hearing starts again and then will probably intervene to question the Unit and further prolong the hearings.

This is a brazen political deal entered into by professional hacks without any consideration for the harmful affects that could result on the members in the plant. Rank-and-file members can have nothing but contempt for the outsiders who are responsible.

ARTICLE VI

WAGE RATES

5. Piece Prices—Hourly Rated Piecework Employees

(b) There will be no change in a standard price except where there is a change in manufacturing method.

Where such a change in manufacturing method is made, the price may be adjusted. However, such adjustment shall be limited to those parts of the job affected by the change.

In order that the operator will be able to make the same hourly earnings under a new price where a new manufacturing method is made, which does not reduce the job value on which the original price was computed, the adjusted price will be in direct proportion to the change in allowed time for the part of the job affected by the new method. When a price is reduced on such jobs, the employee and his representative will be given at least one week's notice that the price is to be changed.

Article VI

WAGE RATES

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(d) There will be no change in standard prices except where there is a change in method. Where such change in method is made, the price may be adjusted. However, such adjustment shall be limited to those parts of the job affected by the change.

When a change in method is made which does not reduce the job value on which a price has been computed, the Company will time study the job and set a new price which will give the operator at least the same hourly earnings as he made on the old price.

Here is the exact language of both the UE and IUE-CIO Contracts regarding piece-work earnings. The IUE-CIO Contract, left, guarantees everything the UE Contract, right, does.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS.

Published by the Editorial Committee
President—James J. Cognetta
Vice President—Joseph Aloia
Treasurer—Joseph Whitback
Recording Secretary—Miles Moon
Asst. Recording Secretary—Rudy Risland
Chief Shop Steward—William Mastiani
Business Agent—Leo Jandreau
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

Unity means greater gains.
Don't let the outsiders split
us up.

Vacation Pay Won

Francis Savoie of Bldg. 95 and Lawrence Johnson of Grounds and Buildings will receive a week's vacation pay and continuity of service credits thanks to Local 301.

Both started working at G.E. in March of 1953 and because of their short service were notified they would be laid off several days before their anniversary date. The Union contacted management and it was agreed to extend their notice of layoff so that they would receive credit for one year's service.

301 on T-V

Local 301 is sponsoring a series of Weekly T-V shows on WRGB to acquaint the entire membership with all the facts in the campaign.

The shows are arranged for the most convenient time during one week-day evening. Check your regular newspaper for time and date.

301 On the Job

Bldg. 67: H. Henness is protesting the action of Foreman Slate in assigning him work normally done by the maintenance steamfitters. Union demands this work be assigned to properly classified personnel.

Bldg. 84: The track group in Steward J. House's section protest the assignment of a group leader to do Burners' work. Union demands the Burners' work be assigned to properly classified personnel.

Bldg. 109: J. Perham and the group on the operation following him are protesting a loss in earnings. Union demands that the brazing machine causing this condition be repaired or eliminated and proper adjustment of earnings in the interim.

Bldg. 269: F. Lyons, in Steward H. Nichols' section, protesting the job rate for Arc Parts—Hydrogen Atmosphere. Union demands proper reclassification and rate increase based on the skill, knowledge and hazard involved.

Bldg. 273: P. Holohan, in

Stop Rate Cut Better Pension Plan is Result Of Unity Move

After 26 years' service with G.E., John Jardine will retire on pension May 1, 1954.

For the past 5 years he has been a Leader on his job and with only these few weeks left before retirement he was notified last week that he was to be downgraded. Through Foreman Popowitz he was told that starting March 22 he was to return to the floor and work with the group.

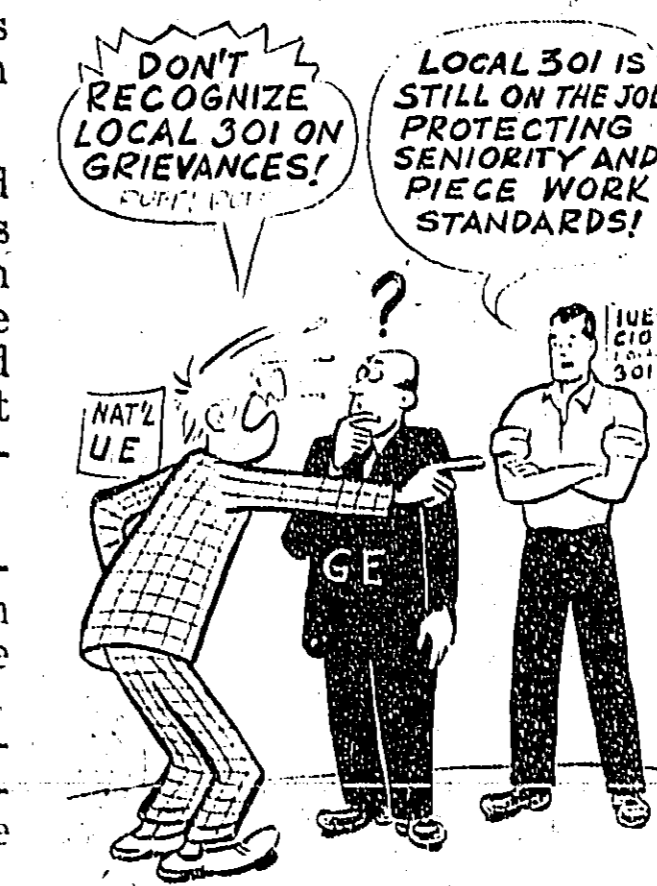
Shop Steward Strohmaier immediately took up the case and as a result management agreed that Brother Jardine will maintain his regular rate until retirement.

So the company has put its Pension experts to work drafting improvements for this year's negotiations. The company hopes to take credit for giving these plans "voluntarily." But that is an old Boulware trick GE workers are wise to, so he won't fool anyone.

The simple fact is that the move for Unity has made GE move to make Pension improvements along two major lines:

1. Reduction in length of service required to qualify.
2. Improvements in the vesting provisions.

These are improvements long demanded by IUE-CIO. United as we have never been before, we should win these improvements and many more from GE this year.



McCarthy's Record Of Smear-and-Run Finally Catching Up With Him

Joe McCarthy, the "Senator" from Wisconsin, is in the hottest spot in his political life. And it's too bad he isn't up for election this year, for he would be headed for defeat.

Jumping Joe has trapped himself in the worst fix he's ever been in by trying to take over the Army through threats. The Army fought back.

As a result, the mud-slinging Senator is exposed as one of the lowest behind-the-scenes political pressure boys in history. This particular incident brought out the way McCarthy used his Senate office to put pressure on the Army to get special treatment for his questionable cohort, Gerard David Schine.

Roy Cohn, McCarthy's other buddy, is equally guilty.

The fix Joe and his traveling twins are in is pointed out in this week's reactionary Time Magazine, which had to admit that McCarthy is on the hot seat.

Only the week before, Columbia Broadcasting System disclosed that after Edward R. Murrow's courageous broadcast exposing McCarthy as an unscrupulous and vicious man who is mis-using his Senate seat, thousands of calls came into CBS stations all over the country and the calls were 15-to-1 in favor of congratulating Murrow.

In Washington, D. C., WTOP pointed out that of 466

calls it received after the broadcast, 454 stated that Murrow did the country a great service in exposing the menace of McCarthyism. In Milwaukee the calls were 40-to-1 for Murrow and against McCarthy.

In his T-V broadcast, Murrow pin-pointed the danger of McCarthyism when he said: "McCarthy's primary achievement has been in confusing the public mind as between internal and external threats of Communism."

In the Man-Of-The-Week program on March 13, IUE-CIO President James B. Carey put it another way when he said:

"Like so many other people, the CIO is shocked by Senator McCarthy's circus, and also by his reactionary record as a Senator . . . McCarthy is destroying the confidence of Americans in our democratic institutions."

"We of CIO don't think this circus should be permitted to continue. Nor do we agree with the people that say Senator McCarthy is all right but his methods are not good. We are opposed to Senator McCarthy's totalitarian objectives as well as to his totalitarian tactics."

301 Pioneered In Gains For Women

Helen Quirini knows facts.

For instance, she knows that the first agreement providing special adjustments for women workers was won by Local 301. That was in 1944, before the National was even interested in women's rates.

Local 301 later conducted the first survey of women's rates, which resulted in additional increases for women workers. This, too, was before the National even tried to do anything to raise women's rates.

Helen knows these things. That is why she took the floor

at the last Convention in Chicago and made a report on the tremendous gains Local 301 has made for women workers. In that report she stated:

"In Schenectady, we have gotten some substantial raises this year and I want to tell you a little about them. This is the third time that the plant has been surveyed and major raises have been given.

"This does not come easy. It takes a constant pressure in the shop, daily filing of grievances. . . .

"We had 373 jobs increased

IUE-CIO Demands Raise, Union Shop

The IUE-CIO GE Negotiating Committee met Tuesday, March 23, at the Van-Currier Hotel in Schenectady to prepare for negotiations with GE which start next month. Contract improvements were the major items on the agenda as representatives of Local 301 sat in on their first meeting with other members of the IUE-CIO negotiating team. President James Cognetta and Assistant Business Agent Fred Sheehan attended for Local 301.

The first demand of IUE-CIO is a substantial general wage increase.

Other demands include:

1. The guaranteed annual wage to provide GE workers with steady purchasing power.
2. A corporation-wide minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour, which will put a stop to GE's program of running away to the South.
3. Equal pay for equal work.
4. Union Shop.

The GE demands have not been finalized yet. Local 301 has received assurances that it will be consulted before the final demands are submitted.



UE Blasted For Forgery

In an attempt to show some form of leadership in the plant, UE is luring people to meetings and then signing the names of these people on leaflets without the consent of the people involved.

That is what happened in the case of UE's "Women For UE" leaflet.

UE got them to the meeting. Then UE circulated a piece of paper which it said was "merely an attendance sheet" for the people to sign. Then after the meeting UE traced names off the sheet on to a leaflet that inferred that the women supported UE.

The outsiders did this even though the women stated before hand that they were "not for UE", but merely attended the meeting to get information.

Such was the case of Jennie M. Reinhart of Bldg. 269. And Sister Reinhart has since condemned this action.

In a sworn affidavit before a Notary Public on March 24, Sister Reinhart stated:

"Since signing the attendance sheet I have seen a leaflet published and distributed by 'UE Hall - 201 1/2 Broadway' on which a facsimile of my signature appears under a statement inferring that the signers of said statement do endorse UE National policies or do support UE. Such inference is false and contrary to fact. Furthermore, my signature was copied and used on such leaflet completely without my consent and, in fact, I am entirely opposed to this manner of ambiguously using my signature to create a false impression."

We Did It Before - We Will Do It Again!

GE Schenectady Workers have been united for more than 17 years. Unity to us in Schenectady means better pay envelopes. It means the best contract in GE. It means a constitution which "unites all electrical workers regardless. . . ."

But the Company and Carey's IUE'ers say the workers have it all wrong. They say unity means getting rid of the UE contract which has more than a year to run. They say unity means giving up piece price protection and plantwide seniority.

In the name of unity, Carey and Jandreau have managed to split a united plant into at least 40 different parts—in three short weeks! They have opened the doors to dozens of craft unions. They have given the Company an open season for rate cutting, seniority violations and favoritism.

It is a strange kind of unity that inspires such headlines as these:

- "SECESSION DRIVE GAINS"
- "SPLITS SPREAD THROUGH SCHENECTADY WORKS"
- "OTHER UNIONS ENTER PICTURE"

And all on the eve of 1954 contract negotiations when thousands are being downgraded, put on a short work week and laid off.

The Company states on the Taft-Hartley Board record that it wants to get out from under the UE contract. Carey's Washington lawyers and Jandreau go along with the Company. They, too, say that the superior UE contract should go out of existence.

Workers want unity, but not the unity of Company unionism, not the unity of the graveyard, nor the unity of fear that GE is trying to establish with the help of McCarthy, Carey, and Kearney of the un-American Committee.

Carey's brand of unity, as Schenectady workers know, means being split down the middle just as Lynn GE workers have been for more than four years. It means trying to get back some part of the UE contract through strikes such as Syracuse GE workers had for 13 futile weeks last year.

That kind of unity robs the pay envelope, destroys jobs, ends the members' rights to vote on strikes, contracts and settlements. It has no chance of success, except through secrecy, treachery, and political interference. Jandreau admitted in the Schenectady Court House on March 26th, that the deal to go IUE-CIO had been hatched in a New York City hotel room by himself, Carey and their lawyers.

That hotel room meeting, Jandreau said on the court record, took place on March 2nd, a few days after McCarthy had subpoenaed him, then mysteriously dropped him. It was held on the very day following a stewards' meeting which voted unanimously to defend their union after Jandreau had paid glowing tribute to UE!

Secrecy . . . HURRY . . . RIGGED MEETINGS . . . DECEIT. These are the necessary tactics of people who operate against the interest of GE workers.

The big issues are the same in 1954 as they were in 1950 when the Company tried to split us by petitioning the Taft-Hartley Board on behalf of the IUE-CIO. WE BEAT THEM!

AND, IN 1951, WE BEAT THEM AGAIN by a 3 to 1 vote!

It was true then, as it is now, that the Company — ALWAYS THE COMPANY — who is behind these moves to destroy and wreck the gains of 17 big UE years.

WE BEAT THEM BEFORE. . . WE'LL BEAT THEM IN '54!

TONIGHT AT 7:30 !!
GE Shop Stewards Meeting
UE HALL - 201 Broadway
ALL UE LOCAL 301 SHOP STEWARDS
ARE URGED TO ATTEND

DON'T MISS
"UE on TV"
Wednesday Night - 7:30 P. M.
WRGB

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