

GEB Revokes Charter March-of-Dimes Winds Up With a Dance For Illegal Actions

The UE General Executive Board Monday revoked the charter of Local 203 at the Bridgeport, Conn., GE plant for the expelling of 27 members without charges being filed or hearings held. The expulsions were clearcut violations of the UE constitution.

Bridgeport officers, active in the Carey-Block factional group calling itself "The Committee for Democratic Action," made the wholesale expulsions by a form letter. They expelled under a vague accusation of "Communism" virtually all members of the local who opposed them in the last elections for local office.

UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald received no answer to a telegram warning the local officers to withdraw the expulsions and warning them that the international union would protect the job rights of members threatened by the unconstitutional action. A petition signed by hundreds of Local 203 members asked action by the international UE.

When the Board revoked the charter Monday, it also named International Representative Albert L. Smith to cooperate with the Bridgeport membership in reorganizing the local on a democratic basis. He was directed to protect job and contract rights. Bridgeport officers were told they can ask for a hearing at the March GEB meeting.

The swift action of the GEB was taken not only to protect guaranteed membership rights, but to safeguard the whole national UE-GE negotiations for a national wage increase and to prevent the disrupters from breaking down the fight against anti-labor legislation in Congress.

Local Takes Up Turbine Problems

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the previous week from speed-up connected with the use or try-out of carbonyl tools. Inadequate services also had endangered men, the representatives said. They declared that while individual grievances are pending on the complaints, the men are worried by the overall picture developed.

The committee included Board Members William Steward and Leland Sisto, and Committeemen Al Signor, R. H. Fredericks, Roy Lash, and Gabriel Maitino of 60; J. H. Hallenbeck and E. R. Fainelli of 49, and Michael Whittle of 278, assisted by William Kelly and Victor Pasche, of the union office.



The Activities Committee of Local 301 gave a dance Feb. 7 at Turner Hall for the benefit of the March-of-Dimes drive to aid infantile paralysis victims. Performers in the lower picture are Joseph Cammarere, Bldg. 89, and his wife.

ALCO Lay-offs Protested

Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, CIO, has protested to the American Locomotive Co. about 200 to 300 lay-offs occurring in the past two months. The union is concerned not only by the lay-offs themselves, but the company's failure to notify or consult with the union.

'Telling the Town'

Watch for the national UE advertisement, a column called "Telling the Town," in Schenectady newspapers.

This series on wages and prices is to appear today (Thursday) and tomorrow in the Union-Star and tomorrow in the Gazette. It will continue next week in both papers.

Electrical Union News

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CIO, AFL, Farm Leaders Join Forces Against Anti-Labor Bills



Speakers at the legislative conference held by the Capital District CIO Council Saturday in the WOKO auditorium, Albany. Front row, left to right, Lou Slocum, Farmers Union; Ewart Guinier, United Public Workers of America, CIO; Charles Schirmer, business agent of an AFL Teamsters Union local; James Durkin, United Office and Professional Workers,

CIO; Lee Pressman, national CIO counsel, and Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative. Standing, left to right, Robert Northrop, secretary-treasurer of the Council; William Mastriani of Local 301, Council president, and Anthony Barbieri, president of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, chairman of the conference. See page 3 for story.

GE Negotiations Start Next Week

Negotiations for the new national agreement with General Electric will start in New York next Tuesday, Feb. 25. They had been scheduled to begin last Monday, but were postponed for a week because of difficulties for members of both the union and management committees in arranging their time. Leo Jandreau is one of the members of the UE negotiating committee.

CIO Broadcasts

The Capital District CIO Council's radio program will return to the air at 2:20 Sunday over Station WTRY.

Joseph French and James McCoy, both of Local 3717, United Steelworkers of America, of the Hines and Cox plant in Albany, will take part in a skit on benefits won through the union.

The Council program will be at the same hour on alternate Sundays from now on.

Get It in Writing

Frequently members come to the union for help in enforcing a promise which they understand was made to them by a foreman or superintendent in connection with a job transfer. If the promise is simply by word of mouth, then a few months later it becomes extremely difficult to prove what was promised.

If you accept a job change on the basis of a promise which covers something beyond your specific contract rights, you had better get the promise in writing.

Sworn as Committeemen

New stewards sworn in at the Committeemen's meeting Feb. 4 were: Joseph H. Hallenbeck, Bldg. 49; Manuel Fernandez, Bldg. 269; James Petraske, Bldg. 269; Judson J. Bryce, Bldg. 107, and Paul Schermerhorn, Bldg. 269.

Local Toolmakers, Machinists Attend New York Session

Committees representing the machinists and toolmakers here will meet with the national management in New York this morning. The machinists' committee, consisting of Lawrence Di Lallo and James Morrett of Bldg. 53, and Fred Pacelli of Bldg. 101, will discuss the wage rate proposals made for the machinists (machine repair) and the tool room machine operators.

The toolmakers' committee will take up certain angles to be cleared under the recent toolmakers' settlement, specifically the question of the model makers in Bldg. 69. The committee understood at their last New York meeting that these men were covered by the agreement. Now the company says they are not. The committee includes Michael Tedisco, 17, Edward Walling-

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Good Idea To Check Job Classification

Know your job classification and rate, so that you can protect your rights, now and later.

If you have any doubt about it, ask your foreman. You should always know just how you are classified, what your job rate is (or AER if you are a piece worker) and if you are not at the job rate, when you will get there.

The union contract entitles you to this information. If you are classified wrong for the work you do, or if you are not paid the right rate for your job, your union committeeman will represent you in getting the matter straightened out. But you should have the correct facts for him to act on.

Even if you are sure you are being paid correctly now, it is desirable to know just how you are classified. There may be a change affecting your job at some time in the future.

Child Care Centers In Danger Once More

The future of 189 child care centers in New York state is in doubt. The Schenectady projects are among them, because they are partly financed through state funds.

Governor Dewey didn't mention the centers in either his budget or legislative messages. The CIO Teachers Union has learned from sources close to the Governor that he is considering scrapping the centers.

State Senator Arthur Wachtel has introduced a bill to appropriate \$3,000,000 to keep the centers operating till 1950.

Protect Your Seniority

While you are away because of illness, you must keep your division head advised of your condition at least once a month.

That's one of the precautions you must take to protect your seniority.

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Speaking of Monopolies

Here are a few facts to point out to anyone who starts to take seriously the Big Business charge about labor "monopolies." They were mentioned by Lee Pressman in his fighting speech at the Capital District CIO legislative conference Saturday in Albany.

Last winter Alfred P. Sloan, president of General Motors, was accusing the United Auto Workers of "discrimination" against GM because they didn't have strikes at Ford, Chrysler and other plants too. He wanted industry-wide bargaining and uniform action then.

Now he's testifying in favor of anti-labor bills that would forbid any industry-wide bargaining. This year, it seems, it's labor "monopoly" even to make the same wage proposals to two employers or two plants of the same company.

And speaking of monopolies. The assets of GM or of any other individual corporation of that size are more than the assets of all the labor unions of the country lumped together, CIO, AFL, Brotherhoods and independent.

Animal Keepers Earn More Than State Hospital Help

Shocking conditions at state hospitals will continue under Governor Dewey's inadequate budget, Ewart Guinier, United Public Workers of America, told the CIO legislative conference Saturday in Albany.

Because of bad pay and unsatisfactory working conditions, the turn-over of employees in state mental institutions is as high as the mortality rate of a front line Infantry battalion, he said.

"So long as keepers of monkeys and elephants receive \$500 a year more than New York state keepers of our mentally ill," he declared, "we can expect the intolerable and disgraceful conditions in our state hospitals to continue."

Schenectady Teachers To Receive Increases

The Schenectady Board of Education has voted to give the city teachers the full amount of state money available to them, less the percentage the city has to pay toward the retirement fund.

The state provided \$300 for 1947 and \$75 for the first three months of 1948. President Andrew Peterson recently wrote the Board of Education asking that the increases be passed along immediately.

Attend Albany CIO Conference

Local 301 members at the Capital District CIO Council legislative conference at Albany Saturday included William Mastriani, Council president; Andrew Peterson, Local 301 president; William Kelly, assistant to the business agent; Fred Pacelli, chairman of the Legislative Committee; and about 35 others.

Those who signed their names on the attendance list at the door included: Michael Tedisco, T. P. McDonald, Marie Wescott, Henry Garfield, Willard Kuschel, Ralph Hruby, Stanley Bishop, Horace Perryman, Charles Ferris, Marie Sweeney and Thomas Chapadeau.

Also John Kasitch, Janet Losee, Dewey Brashear, Sidney Friedlander, William G. Weber, Albert Davis, Claude Spencer, Roy Lash, Earl L. Austin, William Martin, Joseph Dominelli, Joseph Krone, Gordon Belgrave, George Walker, Mary McCartin, Howard King, John Wilsey, J. P. Brauneisen, C. Glynn, and Lorna Engst.

Milo Lathrop, legislative representative of UE District 3, and Jerry Steinberg, international UE representative, were also there.

Legislation Committee Gets Letter From Ives

The 301 Legislative Committee's recent letter to U. S. Senator Irving M. Ives asking him to oppose anti-labor legislation has brought to Chairman Fred Pacelli a reply from the senator saying:

"I hope and believe that out of our consideration of pending proposals something of an equitable nature will be forthcoming which will give to labor greater responsibility without destroying any of labor's rights and will place the whole matter of collective bargaining, mediation, and arbitration on a more equitable basis."

The letter did not say what Ives proposed to do or just what he meant by "greater responsibility" for labor and "more equitable bargaining." He did say he was guided by this "principle":

"The rights and obligations of the workers are commensurate with the rights and obligations of employers."

Complaint Session

The Executive Board has voted to set aside one night each month for a sub-committee or the entire Board to hear complaints from any individual member of Local 301 or any group of members about policies or procedures of the union or activities of union officers. It will be the second Monday each month.

Unions in Life-and-Death Fight at Washington Pressman Warns Capital District CIO Meeting

Labor must fight for its life today at Washington just as it fought on the picket lines last year, Lee Pressman, national CIO counsel, warned the Capital District CIO legislative conference at Albany Saturday.

"Never in the history of our country has there been a more devilish, more unscrupulous, more determined effort to smash the labor movement than today," he said.

Both Pressman and Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, pointed out too many people are saying "They just can't do this to us" instead of fighting back with all their strength.

An AFL speaker, Charles Schirmer of Albany, business agent of Local 669, Teamsters Union, declared that after World War I employers "tried to break our backs". He urged that CIO and AFL join forces in fighting the anti-labor legislation of today.

Louis Slocum, Farmers' Union organizer, said that the same interests that are seeking to destroy labor are trying to drive the small farmer off his land. He pledged cooperation of the Farmers' Union in battling anti-union bills.

Other speakers were James Durkin, director of the insurance division, United Office and Professional Workers, CIO, and Ewart Guinier, Albany representative of the United Public Workers of America. Fred Purcell of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who planned to speak, was called out of town unexpectedly.

CIO Council President William Mastriani, of Local 301, opened the conference and then turned the chair over to Anthony Barbieri, president of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, the conference chairman.

Bills Would Destroy Labor

Pressman opened by describing the Ball-Taft-Smith bill and several other bills typical of the anti-labor legislation being rushed through Congress.

"They aren't aimed just at weakening unions, but at destroying unions," he said. "They all have the same purpose."

"During the war, organized labor showed it was strong enough, allied with other progressive forces and with President Roosevelt, to wipe out Fascism. The great monopolies saw that this same alliance could be strong enough after the war to establish real peace and prosperity for the people of the world."

Pressman charged that right after V-J Day reactionary employers plotted together to plan the destruction of labor and labor's allies. He said they wanted to repeat the pattern of 1920 to 1929, when profits soared to tremendous heights, without a single general wage

Big Business Fears Labor Union Press

One reason that Big Business is determined to destroy organized labor is that unions dare expose phony claims and publicity of the corporations.

"They don't like the way we show up their propaganda", is the way Lee Pressman, national CIO counsel, put it at the CIO legislative conference in Albany Saturday.

"We embarrass them!" Local 301 members had a good first-hand example of GE embarrassment recently when the Works News attacked UE News, the national UE paper, for daring to tell the truth about the Federal Court trial of GE on cartel charges.

increase in any basic industry. Instead, unions were broken and destroyed. Big Business failed last winter to repeat its victory of 20 years ago.

Fight to the Finish

"In last year's struggles, the great strikes, the CIO again demonstrated its strength," Pressman said. "Remember the way the employers fought you at the plant and at the picket line. That fight is back with you today. They know they can't lick you on the picket line. Now they are down in Washington—to use the government and the laws to beat you. The fight is in Washington, now, just as it was on the picket line last year."

"The CIO, with the AFL, the Railway Brotherhoods and all progressive citizens, must see to it that the Balls and the Deweys don't get their way."

See Next Week's Paper

Reports of the membership meeting, scheduled for Tuesday of this week, and the UE legislative conference in Albany, scheduled for yesterday, will be printed in next week's EU News. This week's issue went to press before either meeting took place.

301 Won't Recognize Warnings of Foremen

Warning notices issued by foremen are not recognized by the union, and have no effect on a member's record as far as the union is concerned in protecting his rights.

This policy, adopted by the union over two years ago, is stated here again because of questions asked about some foremen who have shown recently a great zeal in issuing warning notices, apparently with the hope of frightening members who stood up for their rights.

In other words, if the company makes charges against a man's conduct, the union will demand specific proof of individual offenses, and the existence of warning notices means nothing.

The Executive Board of Local 301 adopted this policy in August, 1944, "in view of the past record and present attitude of the foremen in serving these warning notices on employees for little or no reason." A letter to J. W. Burnison from Leo Jandreau on August 31, 1944, said:

"We have given serious consideration to the whole matter and up until now we have tried to live within the warning notice system. In view of the fact that supervision looks upon it too lightly and uses warning notices as a means of intimidation and threats to the employee, we will not be able to recognize the system as being one that is justified and recognized by the union."

Warning notices are not handled as grievances. And any one shown a warning notice should refuse to sign it.

Rotterdam Busy On Movie Plans

A second meeting is planned for tomorrow (Friday) night at the home of William Templeton, Rotterdam, to discuss plans for a program of children's movies to be shown in Rotterdam.

The first meeting last Friday was arranged as part of the program of the Local 301 Legislative Committee of which Brother Templeton is a member. About 15 members of the union or their wives, living in the town of Rotterdam, attended the session at the Templeton home. A nature film, "Gray Owl's Little Brother", was shown and there were violin selections by Brother Templeton and piano selections by LeRoy Underhill. Refreshments were served.

Plans will be made tomorrow for an enlarged meeting Feb. 28 when the entire town will be invited to see children's movies.