

Raise \$1,000

Over \$1,000 has been presented by UE Local 301 to the AFL Prudential insurance agents to help defray strike expenses.

The money was contributed by UE members during the all-day collection conducted in the GE Works by '301' stewards on Feb. 11.

The sum presented is not the total amount since many stewards have not yet turned in their collection canisters. They are urged to do so at once.

McLean Appointed To '301' Board

Howard McLean has been appointed by the '301' executive board as the acting Board member for UE members in the Campbell Ave. and Race Track buildings.

GE Contract Violations Provokes Stoppages

Tempers reached the boiling point last week among workers who assemble and spot weld on enclosing cases in Bldg. 73 when GE engaged in a blatant violation of the Union contract.

UE Whirlwind Campaign Starts Thawing Freeze

Continued from page 1

similar letter. Another dozen senators were visited to enlist their support.

They conferred with Roger Putnam, economic stabilization director, who has authority over all prices and wages, and he agreed to take up the cases with WSB's public members.

They met with the general counsel and two special assistants of the Office of Defense Mobilization, headed by Charles Wilson, and obtained promises they would look into the case.

For two hours they staged a picketline in front of the wage freeze board's offices, carrying signs that demanded: Stop Stalling We Want Our Wage Increase. End the Wage Freeze.

They visited public members of the WSB and from industry member, Hiram Hall, got an indication of his support of the cases.

While this five day whirlwind of activity was engulfing GE and the wage freeze board, the company still refused to take steps to move its industry members on the WSB into action, though UE officers again urged such action by GE.

The IUE, whose CIO members continue to sit on the wage freeze and participate in the freeze, came up with nothing better than a brainstorm that the 2.50 percent should be put into a pension plan and not into the pockets of the workers.

Halt GE Day Work Attack In WSB Spray Paint Case

Exactly one year to the day that a petition was filed, approximately 27 spray painters working out of Bldg. 107 have had a 5 1/2 cent special adjustment approved by the Wage Stabilization Board. It carries retroactive pay to Feb. 19, 1951.

Three times a petition was filed with the WSB in an attempt to get negotiated increase approved. The last petition was filed two months ago.

On this last one, GE wanted Local 301 to sign a stipulation that would prejudice all future negotiations for increases on any of 1,800 day work job rates in the Works.

When UE Local 301 refused to make any such commitment, GE applied for approval unilaterally, knowing that the WSB will approve no increase that is not jointly filed.

Finally, on Jan. 23 of this year, Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent, wrote to the WSB's regional attorney, pointing out that GE's position in the petition had nothing to do with the immediate case at hand and that the Union would not bind itself in part or in whole towards examination and analysis of other inequities among other

categories such as existed among the employees covered by this petition.

Asking for reconsideration of the case, minus GE's attempts to tie down all day workers, he asked for prompt approval of the increase. The WSB accepted Local 301's exceptions to the GE petition, ruled them invalid, and approved the increase.

The increase established a 16 1/2 cent differential for spray painters on A work, which has undesirable conditions not encountered by brush painters on B work.

IUE Stunned By UE Victory At GE Plant

Convention to Hear Schenectady Report

BUFFALO, N. Y., Sept. 15 (Special)—Had now greeted the delegates to the third annual convention of the CIO International Union of Electrical Workers as they gathered here today.

THE PRICE TAG WAS \$100,000

UE in Smashing Triumph at GE

Winner Secures 11,542 Votes to 4,851 for Rival

UE WINS ELECTION AT SCHENECTADY

TO KEEP A FIGHTING UNION IN THE SCHENECTADY GE WORKS, IT TOOK A LOT OF TIME, EFFORT AND HARD WORK. IT ALSO COST MONEY.

To defeat the attempts of the IUE-CIO in 1950 and 1951 to split and disrupt our unity it cost \$100,000.

To keep a fighting union and the UE contract conditions won over 15 years time—it was well worth it, as UE Local 301 members demonstrated by their vote last September.

But the \$100,000 it cost to defeat the IUE's two raids used up the money that your Union had put aside for such emergencies.

In 1952, UE has a wage reopener with GE in March—and contract negotiations in September. The IUE might, as usual, come knocking at the door again to split and disrupt in the middle of such battles.

We've got to be ready. We've got to rebuild our Fighting Fund. Let's be ready for any emergency.

Make sure your fighting union has a fighting fund.

Contribute your \$5 today to YOUR UE Local 301 Defense Fund.

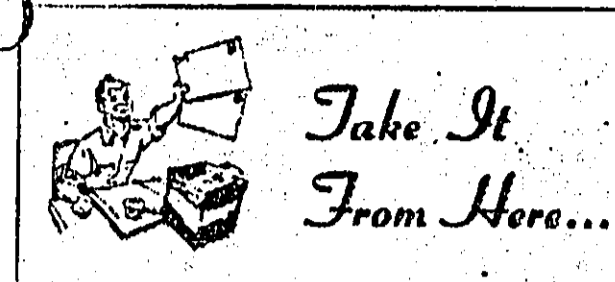
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 10 — No. 8

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, February 29, 1952



Newark, N. J.—UE Local 426 signed up 56 new members in one month at the Westinghouse Meter Plant.

Denver—Over 275,000 oil workers, organized into 22 CIO, AFL and independent unions, are set for a nationwide strike on March 3 to back up their joint demand for a \$2 a day wage increase. The date was set by a joint committee of the three unions after members had voted for strike action against the nation's major oil companies.

Chicago—In a three day walkout that was termed the first major skirmish in the fight for a new 1952 contract, 4,000 UE Local 108 members at the McCormick Works of International Harvester forced the company to rescind a series of "disciplinary" suspensions. CIO's Auto Workers Local 6 at the Melrose Park Harvester plant expressed sympathy and support to UE members during the walkout.

New York—By a vote of better than 50 to 1, CIO workers in eight Bethlehem shipyards voted to go on strike on March 1 if no agreement is reached. The vote: 26,642 to 532.

Watertown, Mass. — UE Local 202 has won 16 improvements over its previous contract in negotiations with the Manning Maxwell & Moore Co. Total wage increases in the past 13 months have amounted to 22 cents an hour.

Detroit—The time has come to scrap the CIO United Auto Workers' five year contract and "go back to a policy of fighting for the workers," Carl Stellato, president of Ford Local 800, the UAW's largest local, has declared.

Hollywood—A strike date has been set by the Screen Writers Guild against Television Film Producers if an agreement isn't reached by March 10.

Long Beach, Cal. — Repeated pressure on the Wage Stabilization Board by 10,000 Douglas Aircraft Workers has won approval of all but one cent of the wage demands this CIO Auto local won.

Protest Wage Freeze Next Tuesday Throughout Chain

The date is Tuesday, March 4. The time is lunch-hour: 12 noon for first shift, 7 p.m. for second shift and 3 a.m. for third shift. The place is GE's Schenectady Works. That's when UE Local 301 members will join workers throughout the General Electric chain to express



END THE FREEZE. That was the cry of over 100 UE members from the GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania chains on Feb. 18 in Washington, D. C. In addition to the many governmental agencies from which they demanded action, a two hour picketline was staged in front of the Wage Stabilization Board calling for an end to the stall on wage increases—including the full 3.58 percent from GE.

'301' Takes Hughes-Brees Repeal Fight To Capitol

The signatures of 10,000 UE Local 301 members calling for repeal of the Hughes-Brees amendments to the unemployment insurance law were presented to Republican legislative leaders in Albany by '301' leaders on Feb. 19.

Also presented were the signatures of 57 Republican committeemen and six ward and town presidents that UE members had solicited.

The petitions were presented at a meeting arranged by '301' through State Sen. Thomas F. Campbell. Present were top leaders of the state AFL and AFL representatives from Syracuse, New York City, Rochester, Schenectady, and Albany.

their burning resentment over the Wage Stabilization Board's stall of their 3.58 percent wage increase and the failure of GE to get its industry members on the WSB to act.

These chain-wide protest meetings will hear reports from their executive board members and stewards on what UE has done to thaw the freeze and what GE and the wage freeze board haven't done — and to demand some action — pronto.

The meetings will also express the urgency of GE sitting down at once on the March 5 wage reopener and bargaining in good faith for a substantial wage increase, improved women's and skilled workers' rate and elimination of geographical differentials.

They will also serve notice that the time has come to end the wage freeze altogether — since only wages have been "stabilized" while prices, taxes and profits continue to skyrocket.

While UE national officers went to Washington and secured a promise from wage freeze board officials that the case would get prompt consideration, while UE members went to Washington and mobilized over 60 congressmen and senators in support of their case and personally saw top officials of the Economic Stabilization agency, and the Defense Mobilization agency—GE has aroused even greater resentment among its workers.

GE turned down UE Local 301's proposal that its top officials go with UE top officers to see the WSB.

L. R. Boulware, GE's vice president, has been busy issuing pious statements paying "lip-service" to the needs of the workers — but offering nothing in the way of concrete action.

GE rushed to get approval of a 1.08 percent increase to throw cold water on further action to win the whole 3.58 — an action that increased the anger of its workers who want the whole 3.58 percent before new negotiations start.

The IUE-CIO, which has done nothing but tag along after GE proposals or come up with fancy proposals to get a few newspaper headlines, has also felt the heat of its members as a result of UE's chain-wide campaign. A week after UE's GE Conference Board met and set a date for the chain-wide protest, the IUE Board met and suggested similar action — an indication of the widespread resentment against GE in the chain and support for UE's militant program of action — something even IUE leaders couldn't ignore.

Continued on page 4

"Every Member Bring A Member"

UE LOCAL 301

JOINT MEETING Members & Stewards

2nd SHIFT

Monday, March 3, 1952

1:30 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS

Monday, March 3, 1952

7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

Erie Blvd. & Liberty St.

Two Million Disabled

Longer hours, increased employment and speed-up forced injuries in manufacturing up 20 percent in 1951 over 1950. Preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that more than two million workers were disabled by work injuries, resulting in 42 million lost mandays of labor, equivalent to 140,000 full-time employees for a year.

Jandreau Elected

The UE General Electric Conference Board has elected Leo Jandreau, '301' business agent, as a member of the UE committee to negotiate new wage increases in chain-wide talks that open with GE in March.

The Wage Freeze Board Is Stacked Deck for Workers

GE workers have found much to their sorrow what life is like under the wage freeze. But the storm they've raised to get approval of their 3.58 percent increase is one that millions of workers are joining throughout the country.

More than the wage freeze board's stalling is involved. That's why increasingly the demand is heard all over the country:

- End the Wage Freeze Completely.
- Labor Leaders Should Resign from Participation in the Wage Freeze Board.

UE's President, Albert J. Fitzgerald, in 1950 warned that failure to eliminate wage controls and the wage freeze machinery would produce a situation worse than the Taft-Hartley Act in undermining collective bargaining in America. That this is happening there is ample evidence.

The big business magazine, U. S. News & World Report said on Jan. 11, 1952: "The job of writing labor contracts once again is being taken over by the government."

The wage freeze board on Sept. 21, 1951 stated: "... the important question under wage stabilization is not what the parties may agree upon but what the Board will approve."

Industry members of the Board on Jan. 26, 1952 stated that on such increases as the GE 2.50 per-



GREAT JOB, WSB. COULDN'T TIE HIM UP ANY BETTER MYSELF!

cent they "stand against any new policy providing for ... productivity increases."

A public WSB member, Prof. John P. Dunlop, recently admitted: "One of the principal objectives of stabilization is to slow down the rate of change."

Nathan Feinsinger, chairman of the Wage Stabilization Board, boasted recently that the Board had kept wages to only a 3.3 percent rise between Feb. and Nov., 1951, in contrast to a 8.5 percent increase between Jan. 1950 and Jan. 1951.

Over 20,000 cases are now stalled in the WSB, with 1,800 cases a week going in and only 1,400 com-

ing out. The WSB has announced it will no longer release figures on cases it has pending—adding to its whole policy of secrecy on cases—on which no open hearings of any kind are held.

Under the war economy that GE's Charley Wilson is running—at the rate of \$85 billion a year for arms—profits are pushed higher, taxes are pushed higher and prices push higher and higher. But for workers — their wages are frozen, which means lower living standards and undermines conditions of all workers.

And Charley Wilson, who runs the wage freeze program, intends to keep it just that way, as he admitted in a speech made in January at the National Press Club in Washington, D. C. Wilson said:

"... We must and will maintain wage control ... even at the risk of strikes in key industries."

It's a stacked deck for labor—and that's why the cry is ringing out all over the country that the wage freeze must be ended and labor leaders must no longer participate in the wage freeze board.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

UE ON THE JOB

Bldg. 10: John M. Cole, carboly, charges the price on a job is wrong, making it impossible to maintain his earnings and demands a time study to set a proper price.

A group in carboly charges prices have been cut on a job and demands prices be adjusted so earnings can be maintained.

Another group in carboly charges a job has been cut from 18 to 13 cents each and they can't make out. A price adjustment is demanded.

Bldg. 12: An adequate allowance is demanded by a group in large motor and generator who work with mica. Despite assurances from supervision for several months, the mica they work on is still bad and causes extra work.

Bldg. 16: R. J. Leger charges discrimination by the foreman. He left a 28' machine on second shift at his request, due to swing shift. When a new 42' machine was installed in the same department in Bldg. 60, he asked to run it on day shift. He was turned down. Since he has 22 years service and has the ability, experience and other qualifications needed for the job, it's charged he was penalized because

he left the 28' job. Management investigation is demanded.

When Paul Giebitz, a lathe operator, requested space for tools and equipment, the foreman not only turned him down but threatened to take his job away. An end to such coercion is demanded and that proper locker space be provided.

John Kmonk, Lawrence McKremin and Elwood Gage demand information on a time study taken in July, 1951, which neither the steward or workers know how it was computed or the prices established. A special price has been paid for over 24 months. A standard price is demanded immediately.

Bldg. 46: A group in A & O demand that the rate and pendulum job be evaluated and classified as such. It's being assembled at the present time.

A group in A & O demand that new jobs be classified before they come to the assembly floor, pointing out that the TG-190 C jobs have been introduced with small accumulation sheets due to material shortages and that B jobs are broken into several operations so

the job can be put on the assembly line for outside vendors.

Bldg. 60: An investigation and discussion of safety practices is demanded by a group in crane. It's charged it's impossible for one mechanic to shoot trouble and do repairs and properly cover the whole job. A dangerous situation is caused because mechanic has to leave part of equipment exposed.

William Manion, screw machine, was refused an upgrading by his foreman. Instead, he was removed as dip tank operator and given a common laborer job. Reinstatement on the dip tank is demanded.

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301 LIBERTY ST SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.



"Well it's one way of making out on what the company pays me."

\$100 Back Pay For Unequal Rates

Grace Kublack in Bldg. 78 is over \$100 richer as a result of action by the Union.

While her regular job is masking on spray paint jobs, she has for sometime been assigned elsewhere on jobs that men do—but she was paid her regular \$1.29 rate for this work instead of the regular \$1.51 rate.

An investigation by Local 301 resulted in the filing of a grievance docket calling for the \$1.51 rate for this work—the same that men get paid. GE then ceased assigning her to the work.

The Union insisted that even the rate she was getting for her regular job was too low and is pressing for a boost, pointing out that her present assignment deserves a higher rate because of undesirable working conditions.

While continuing to argue for this higher rate, the Union reached agreement with the company that she should be paid the difference between her rate and the men's rate—22 cents an hour. She was paid this sum retroactively for 12 weeks—at the rate of \$8.80 a week.

Discrimination's Price

Boiled down to profit and loss, discrimination means \$4 1/2 billion in profits to the boss, \$4 1/2 billion in loss to workers, both Negro and white, according to a study conducted by the Union Research & Information Service in San Francisco.

The \$4 1/2 billion results from a low-wage colony in the south created by northern financial interests that establishes such differentials as: woolen weavers in Mass., \$1.56 an hour, in Virginia and N. Carolina, \$1.12; coremakers in Detroit, \$2.07, in Birmingham, \$1.32; dressmakers in New York, \$1.87, in Atlanta, 95 cents; sawmill workers on west coast, \$1.93, in south, 97 cents.

UE Negotiations Will Seek Equal Pay for Equal Work

When UE negotiators sit down with GE in March for new wage demands they will have plenty of hard-hitting facts to point up arguments for eliminating lower pay for women who do the same work as men. In addition to the injustice of GE exploiting women at a lower rate for doing the same work as men, these lower rates threaten the rates that have been established for men.

While the major demand will be that no women shall be paid lower than the common laborer rate, UE Local 301 will provide a series of cases to point up the need for a change throughout the chain on GE's policy on women's rates, cases on which GE has stalled doing anything for months on grounds a change in national policy is needed. Some of the flagrant inequalities that women now endure in the Schenectady Works include:

Tapers in Bldg. 12 getting a \$1.46 and \$1.59 AER while men get \$1.75 1/2 for the same skills. For punch press in Bldg. 19 a \$1.35 AER while men on similar work get a \$1.59 1/2 AER. For punch press in Bldg. 15 a \$1.35 AER while men on comparable work get \$1.55 and \$1.75 AER.

For index punch press work in Bldg. 17 a \$1.35 AER and men get \$1.55 AER. For spot welding in Bldg. 15 a \$1.35 AER while men on same work get \$1.59 1/2 AER. For drill press in Bldg. 10C a \$1.35 AER while men on same work get \$1.55.

UE will also press to end the practice that when a woman's day work job is developed to the point it is ready for piece rate the three step incentive given to men is not allowed for women.

\$44,000 Won By Union For 54 Injured Workers

A total of \$44,000 in cash compensation case awards has been won for 54 injured UE Local 301 members in the past 10 weeks. Leon Novak, the Union's attorney, who represented

Rotterdam's Floods Termed "Man-Made"

The excuse local politicians have been trying to use to charge residents of Rotterdam and other communities about \$1,000 each to build a sewage system because of flooded basements was blown sky-high last week.

The politicians have said the problem is an act of nature. Homeowners have maintained the problem is "mad-made," caused by officials' negligence on building permits that stopped up natural drainage.

The evidence that the problem is "man-made" came from the Veterans Administration, through E. K. Devitt, regional chief of the appraisal section, who wrote to UE Local 301's attorney, Leon Novak:

"We are firmly convinced that the cause is due to some man-made condition in view of the fact this area was never troubled with a high water table up to recent months."

Novak wired Rotterdam Supervisor William Alheim demanding further investigation.

Notice on Dues

As of March 1, based on UE constitutional changes, a full month's dues must be paid by all members who have worked at least five days in one month.



ACTION WANTED NOW. That's what the UE delegates above from the GE, Westinghouse and Sylvania chains told Roger Putnam, Economic Stabilization Director in charge of wages and prices, in Washington, D. C. on Feb. 18. Prompt approval of all increases now stalled in the wage freeze board were demanded by: (l. to r.) Steve Polota, GE Erie Local 506; Joseph Dermody, secretary of UE's GE Conference Board; Fred Pincz, Westinghouse Local 202, Springfield, Mass.; Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative; Douglas Nelson, Sylvania Local 222, Salem, Mass.; Al Ciaffaffero, Westinghouse Local 209, Bridgeport, Conn.; Putnam; and Paul Seymour, UE District 2 president.