

301 Basketball Team Leads in City League

Playing under the union banner, the UE Local 301 basketball team has the best record so far this season of any team in the Schenectady Girls' City League. It's the only undefeated team.

The girls beat the Atoms, the White Sox and the Starlights and tied the Commandos, in League games to date. Another League game is scheduled for 7 p.m. next Monday, Jan. 6, at the Central Park Junior High.

In addition, the Local 301 team went to Pittsfield, Mass., recently, to beat the Pittsfield All-Stars, chiefly girls from the GE plant. The score was 42 for Local 301 to 22 for Pittsfield.

Bonnie Evans is captain of the Local 301 team. The other members are Margie Bohringer, Helen Porter, Lena Sprague, Betty Purcell, Bertha Senecal, Jane Riley, Doris Dickerson, Lorraine Hubbard, Harriet Ford, Rose Durante and Helen Quirini.

It's a flexible team. Instead of having six team members and substitutes, Capt. Evans has this squad of 12 who shift positions.

Helen Quirini, who will take office next week as recording secretary of Local 301, arranged for the basketball group to play under the union's name. She organized the UE women's softball team last spring.

GE Won't Arbitrate Longendyke Dispute

(Continued from Page 1)

what is normally required of a Class A electrician."

Longendyke still does the same kind of work. But when the electricians' rate was increased in the 1945 War Labor Board case of the union, GE refused to give a raise to Longendyke.

The company said, "No, he's just a crane repairman."

The union has processed a new case, to establish once more what it already proved back in 1940, that Longendyke should get the top electricians' rate.

GE representatives ignore their 1940 statement in the case and turn down all arguments of the union. Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent, reported that a recent meeting in New York City with James Burnison, assistant to the GE vice-president in charge of labor relations, ended in another deadlock.

Union Asks Arbitration

GE has refused to arbitrate the case, but the union will continue pressing for arbitration.

What!! Waste Washroom Worker On Only 100 Men?

GE management recently has brought 100 people into Bldg. 73 Saturdays to work, but won't give them a washroom attendant.

Weekdays 400 men use one washroom in Bldg. 73. There's only one attendant for the room. Apparently that's the GE "efficiency" standard, one attendant for 400 workers. On that basis, GE figures the 100 Saturday workers are entitled to only a quarter of an attendant. But an attendant can't be divided into quarters, so the Saturday workers are just out of luck!

The union office is pressing a grievance case over the Saturday attendant matter. At the same time, it has started an investigation of health and sanitary conditions in Bldg. 73 and elsewhere.

Complaints have been received at the union office about the large number of workers required to use one washroom, and other unpleasant conditions. Union officers said a check-up will be made of the way GE is observing various requirements of the state health and labor laws.

Terminal Leave Bonds

Veterans are now beginning to receive their Terminal Leave Bonds. These bonds are not negotiable until five years after date of discharge. But, they may be used for payment of insurance premiums.

"Here's a clearcut case which in all fairness ought to be settled on the basis of the 1940 decision about the same man," Jandreau said.

"The union has bent over backward to be reasonable, in the face of the company's obstinacy. We are willing to go to arbitration,—although it seems like unnecessary expense and delay.

"But the company flatly refuses to arbitrate the case. It's an attitude like this, on the part of management, that creates bad labor-management relations.

"The government and the public constantly urge unions to arbitrate their difficulties.

"Here our union is ready to arbitrate the case, and GE says nobody can question its management's decisions. It's a violation of the spirit of the UE-GE contract for the company to take this stand.

"We are running into this attitude in case after case being handled now with GE."

Machinists' Demands Are Sent to Howell

Local 301 has taken to Works manager J. M. Howell the demand of the machine repair and tool room machinists for upward adjustment of their rates and a definite method of advancement within the rate ranges open to these men.

The union acted on instruction of the machinists' committee, when A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, flatly refused Dec. 23 to do anything about the problem.

The principal issue is that the machinists' rates at GE are out of line with prevailing rates, and that the machinists and tool room machine operators are in fact held to the job rate of \$1.38 1/2. Stevens said the top paid rate was \$1.48 1/2, but admitted that this was only paid to "exceptional" men, and "super-dupers," and that in practice the machinists should expect a top of \$1.38 1/2, 25 cents below the present top for toolmakers. He made no effort to meet the union's arguments on rates paid elsewhere.

The meeting with Stevens last week was the second with the machinists' committee.

The committee planned to call a general meeting of machinists after the New Year.

Portal-to-Portal Pay Claims Made

(Continued from Page 1)

nectady of workers having to spend as long as half-an-hour from the time they enter the plant gates to the time they actually start work. The interval is spent getting into working clothes and obtaining tools. It usually takes them about the same length of time to leave the plant at the end of the day.

The UE office has filed suits against GE, General Motors, Westinghouse, General Cable and Sylvania companies. The suits are based on a recent U. S. Supreme Court decision that under the Wage-Hour Act workers are entitled to payment for all time they spent inside the plant gate or the plant.

The union will act for individual members who authorize that their claims be pressed. As soon as workers give their authorizations, their names will be added to the list seeking back payments.

The national UE office is handling the cases against the "Big Four" electrical companies. Claims against other companies are supervised by the district UE offices.

Electrical Union News

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Union Asks Women Members for Their Opinion On State Law Against Working After 10 P. M.

A survey of the views of Local 301 women members on the 10 o'clock limitation on women's night work is being conducted by the union. Committeemen in departments with a large membership of women are making a canvass of these workers.

The wartime law extending the night shift limit to midnight will expire Apr. 1. Unless the Legislature takes action to allow women to continue working until midnight, the women's night shift will automatically have to stop at 10 p.m., as of Apr. 1.

Local 301 has been asked by the State Department of Labor for its opinion as to whether the Legislature should be asked to extend the law authorizing the midnight limit.

That's a question for the women workers themselves to decide, the union officers agreed. Business Agent Leo Jandreau at once made arrangements for the survey of opinion of women workers in the shops.

Turbine Check-Up Disturbs Workers

"Method checks" of turret lathe work with carboly tools were started last week by piece rate men in the west gallery of Bldg. 60. This move of the company adds to the worries of the workers in the Turbine Division.

Because the methods have been established for a long time and carboly tools used right along, the men are wondering whether supervision is trying to lay the basis for another attack on piece prices.

The Turbine Division has seen many difficulties over piece prices in recent weeks, with a number of grievance cases pending. Workers are watching the present studies to see whether some preparation is being made by the company to claim an artificial "change of method" as a means of price-cutting.

District Meeting

The UE District 3 Council will meet Jan. 18 at Rochester UE headquarters. Leo Jandreau is president. The Executive Board will meet Jan. 17.

Important

If you want to be covered by the gate-to-gate law suit filed by the national UE in behalf of GE workers, sign an authorization form immediately.

Only people who have authorized the union in writing to sue for them can obtain any back-pay.

See Next Week's EU News For Installation Report

Installation of the 1947 officers and Executive Board members of Local 301 was scheduled for Tuesday night, after this week's EU News went to press.

The report on the installation and other business of the combined membership and committeemen's meeting will be printed in the Jan. 16 issue of the paper.

CIO Meeting

The Capital District CIO Council will meet Jan. 22 at 301 Hall, instead of Jan. 15.

1947 Proposals For GE Contract Sent to Locals

The General Electric Conference Board of UE has voted in favor of opening 1947 GE contract negotiations by asking for a substantial wage increase,—on the basis of clearly established facts on wages, prices and profits,—instead of demanding any specific raise.

President Andrew Peterson, Edward Wallingford—and Business Agent Leo Jandreau represented Local 301 at the two-day meeting of the Conference Board Saturday and Sunday in New York City. Brother Jandreau was elected to the eight-man national GE negotiating committee.

The Conference proposals on wages and other contract provisions are to be submitted to all GE locals for approval or change within eight days. Local 301 was to vote Tuesday night (after this week's issue of EU News went to press) on the contract recommendations.

\$11.72 Drop in Real Wages

According to the new plan, the union will open GE contract talks by pointing out that the workers have suffered a loss of \$11.72 a week in their real wages, since Jan. 1, 1945, despite pay increases obtained.

The union will ask GE to face the facts squarely and honestly and to state what it is willing to do to offset this \$11.72 cut.

Union arguments will be backed by carefully checked information, wage, price and profit figures based on government reports, the Nathan Report to the CIO and studies of the electrical industry in general and GE in particular.

Newspaper reports of the UE wage proposals seized on the \$11.72 figure in an effort to make it appear that the union will make a flat wage increase demand. Reporters divided \$11.72 by 40 (40 hours in the work-week) and announced UE seeks an increase of 29 3/4 cents an hour.

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UE Spokesman Invites Kearney's Cooperation

Russ Nixon, Washington representative of UE, has written to Representative Bernard W. Kearney in the hopes of establishing contact between the union and the representative from the Schenectady district over pending legislative bills and current problems.

"Although the UE opposed you in your election campaign," he wrote, "we assume that now that the partisanship of the campaign is over, you will make every effort to represent all the people of your district. You will be interested to know, I am sure, that the UE represents 15,000 workers in your district, with a collective bargaining contract covering these workers in the General Electric.

"I am sure that since the UE represents this group, you will want to know our ideas and be informed on the activities of our membership. In the important problems of jobs, economic and social security, and peace, facing the American people in the next few years, we are sure all representatives in Congress will want to be guided by the deep needs and interests of the people as a whole and not by narrow, partisan considerations benefiting only the few."

Nixon asked for a meeting with Kearney.

Unity Council to Tackle Housing, Discrimination

The Citizens' Unity Council of Schenectady will concentrate on two subjects this season.

First, concrete suggestions for improving the local housing situation, especially for veterans.

Second, the Austin-Mahoney bill, soon to be introduced in the state legislature, to forbid state financial aid for educational institutions which discriminate for race, color or creed.

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 represents the union on the Council.

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Still Going Strong

The UE Local 301 girls' basketball team beat the Atoms Monday night by a score of 28 to 22. The Local 301 court stars will play the Starlights at 8:15 p.m. next Monday at Central Park Junior High.

Radio Cracks Down On Friends of Labor

Dr. Frank Kingdon and Johannes Steel are the latest progressives and friends of labor to be dropped from major broadcasting stations.

WOR, which features such reactionaries as Fulton Lewis, Jr., Henry J. Taylor, Gabriel Heatter and Upton Close, no longer has Dr. Kingdon to offset in some degree the one-sided comments on news. Steel's departure from WHN ended a 10 year contract.

Here are a few other victims of the radio trend toward reaction: William S. Gailmor, Robert St. John, John Vandercook, Don Hollenbeck, Don Goddard, Sidney Walton, Hans Jacob, Orson Welles, Quentin Reynolds, Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

The radio future of Raymond Gram Swing and J. Raymond Walsh is reported as extremely uncertain.

Urges Labor to Act Before It's Too Late

Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative reported this week that Republican leaders in Congress are not too sure of themselves.

It's a delicate question how far they can go in the 80th Congress against the interests of the people and of labor without destroying their narrow margin over the Democrats in the 1948 elections.

"Political leaders know there was really no landslide in the elections in 1946," he said. "The shift of votes generally amounted to 6 per cent. This small shift could turn the other way very quickly."

Labor and its friends must protest vigorously against reactionary legislation, he warned. A do-nothing attitude on labor's part would give the green light to Senator Taft and other anti-labor members of Congress.

"But the fight must be made at once, before it's too late," Nixon said.

Tune In

The Local 301 radio broadcast is at 7:15 p.m. every Monday on WSNY.

Widespread Interest In Gate-to-Gate Suit

Authorization forms, signed by Local 301 members who want to be covered by the portal-to-portal suit against GE for back pay, have been pouring into the union office all week. So have requests for information about the law case.

The union has given all committeemen mimeographed authorization forms to distribute to workers in all shops. Anyone wishing to file suit, who hasn't obtained a form yet, should see his committeeman at once.

No More Questionnaires Needed

The UE legal staff has advised the local that the questionnaires already filled out and sent to New York provide enough information to show conditions at the Schenectady plant. Therefore it is not necessary for the additional thousands of interested employees to do anything except sign the authorization statements.

There is no relation between the back-pay suit and the 1947 contract negotiations which are about to start with GE and other companies, UE officers have pointed out.

Union Asks Settlement

UE has asked the five largest electrical corporations, GE, Westinghouse, Pennsylvania, General Motors and General Cable, to discuss settlement of the gate-to-gate suits.

The letter sent to each company explained that the amount of money mentioned in the law suit is nominal "in the sense that the actual amount cannot now be accurately estimated since the company has the books and records from which a more complete determination can be made."

The union's letter declared that "certain interests have attempted to create a public hysteria on the question of gate-to-gate pay."

In the letter to GE the union offered to negotiate an out-of-court settlement with the company of the gate-to-gate claims.

The fact that the law suit has been started would not hinder these negotiations, the union pointed out.

Mrs. Kuschel Dies

Mrs. Elizabeth I. Kuschel, mother of Willard Kuschel, Local 301 Executive Board member, died Friday at Ellis Hospital following a stroke.

Bearers at the funeral included Andrew Peterson, William Mastriani, Marshall White, William Kelly, Leland Sisto and Dewey Brashcar.

1947 Recommendations for GE Contract Submitted to Locals for Vote by January 15

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This publicity gave a completely misleading impression, Jandreau pointed out. The union will make no definite dollar and cents demands, according to the present plan. It will present the full facts to management, including the \$11.72 loss, and negotiate for fair and reasonable wage adjustments.

Key Contract Points

Contract proposals to be submitted to the locals for ratification cover the following key points:

Union shop.

Elimination of continuous process operations. Employees should get time-and-a-half and double time for Saturday and Sunday work as such.

On multiple shifts (three shifts around -the-clock) pay to be received for the lunch period on any eight-hour shift.

Eight paid holidays when not worked. The common labor rate to be the minimum job rate for all employees.

Eliminate geographical differentials to prevent changing rates when work is transferred from one plant to another. The rate should be based on the job content, not on the community rate.

Guaranteed hourly rate for piece workers.

GI Insurance

Any veteran who has allowed his GI Insurance to lapse, can reinstate his policy by payment of two months' premiums. This opportunity expires in February, 1947.

One of the two monthly payments is for the month following the last month paid for. The other month's payment required is for the next month in which the policy again goes into effect. The veteran must make a statement that his health is no worse than it was when he allowed his payments to lapse. After February, 1947, a medical examination may be required.

Transport Workers

The outcome of Tuesday's meeting between the Schenectady Transport Workers Union, CIO, and the Schenectady Railway Co. was not known by the time this week's issue of EU News went to press. The present contract has been extended from Dec. 31 to Jan. 15, with the agreement that any increase will be retroactive to Jan. 1.

Anticipated Earning Rate to be specific percentage above the day rate on all jobs.

Seek to Strengthen Seniority

Principles of seniority must apply in transfers and up-grading.

Shift transfers to be based on seniority.

Increased vacation. Three weeks after 15 years service; four weeks after 25 years.

Sick leave. Provide for a minimum number of days a year with pay.

Pensions. \$100 a month minimum pension, to cover retired workers now under the old pension plan as well as those under the new. Joint administration of the pension plan by union and management. Company to bear complete cost of plan.

Group insurance. Joint company-union management. Increased benefits. Company to bear all costs.

Local 301 representatives proposed tightening and stream-lining of GE grievance procedure. The Conference voted in favor of allowing each local to work out its own grievance procedure with GE. Such agreements would be included with other local matters in a supplement to the general contract.

Civic Groups Hear Talks by Lathrop

Milo Lathrop, legislative representative of District 3, UE, spoke at Trinity Methodist Church, Schenectady, Monday night on local labor developments of the past few years and the Nathan report on wages, prices and profits.

He talked to the Carver League Sunday at Lincoln Heights and showed an anti-discrimination movie, "The Man in the Cage."

Brother Lathrop recently addressed the Schenectady Youth Council at Nott Terrace High School on labor's high production rate. A study outline which he prepared for the group, as the basis of a discussion of labor problems, will also be used by the economic education committee of the Schenectady Citizens' Unity Council.

Good News for Corporations

Two Republican U. S. Senators have introduced separate bills to outlaw practically all portal-to-portal pay suits. They are Senator Wiley of Wisconsin and Senator Capehart of Indiana.

Union Membership Approaches 14,000

Local 301's membership has been climbing steadily as the result of the section-by-section and department-by-department drive started last fall by the Executive Board.

Adam Boss, in charge of membership records, reported this week that the union now has close to 14,000 members, out of the 17,000 eligible. So far the drive has covered six of the 15 membership sections of the plant.

Lists Compiled

The job of getting lists of employees from the committeemen and issuing cards to members and giving lists of non-members to committeemen has been completed for the sections headed by Anthony Esposito (Bldgs. 63, 65 and 69), William Stewart (49 and 60) and James Cognetta (62, 64 and 66).

Almost all the lists are in from committeemen in the sections of Board Members Eugene Lemoine (85, 93, 97 and 109); Henry Busse (68, 70J, 72, 76, 80, 84, 227, 238 and 241), and Dewey Brashcar (81 and 89). Cards and lists of non-members will be issued to the committeemen in these sections soon.

Members in the above six sections who have not yet received their cards should immediately ask their committeemen for them.

Next Sections Picked

Work will begin this week on the sections headed by Albert J. Spears (57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C, D, 99A, and B, 101, 105 and 107) and George Judway (18, 18A, 40, 40B).

Not all committeemen have followed up the lists of non-members given them. The urgent need is for all Board members and committeemen to check these lists until the last person in the department is enrolled.

Office work on the membership drive was interrupted for a few weeks by the annual end-of-the-year financial and tax reports.

Disability Pensions

Thousands of New York State veterans have lost their pensions for disabilities incurred in service. The reason is that too many veterans are discouraged after one application. In order not to lose money which is rightfully due him, the veteran should be sure to file an appeal if an initial application is turned down.