

LOCAL PROGRAM

In Schenectady and Schenectady County, it means:

1. Reduce the outrageously high assessments and taxes on small home-owners by placing the proper tax load on big industry, such as the General Electric, American Locomotive, etc.
2. Join with other municipalities in insisting that the State Legislature assist the municipalities out of the State surplus — and that means, specifically, for education and teachers' salaries.
3. Approach all civic improvements — including the Town of Tomorrow — with the view that they must not increase the tax load on home-owners, but that on the contrary, the tax load on home-owners must be reduced.
4. Repeal the anti-sound truck ordinance and guard against any other infringement of civil liberties.
5. Increase the pay of city and county employees to meet the rise in cost of living and also to meet the union standards established throughout the area in private industry.
6. Develop immediate self-supporting municipal housing programs in Schenectady.
7. Establish a working program to unite the many races, creeds, and national groups of our city, through a city ordinance forbidding discrimination in private and public employment or otherwise by reason of sex, age, creed, race, color or national origin, and to make sure that all municipal and county appointments are made on the basis of merit rather than political influence.
8. Protect our children through increased parks and playgrounds and child care centers — so that mothers who find it necessary to work may have their children under proper care and guidance.
9. Use the influence of municipal government to fight anti-labor legislation in Albany and Washington and to advance the cause of working people in their efforts to raise their living standards, whenever the occasion arises.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

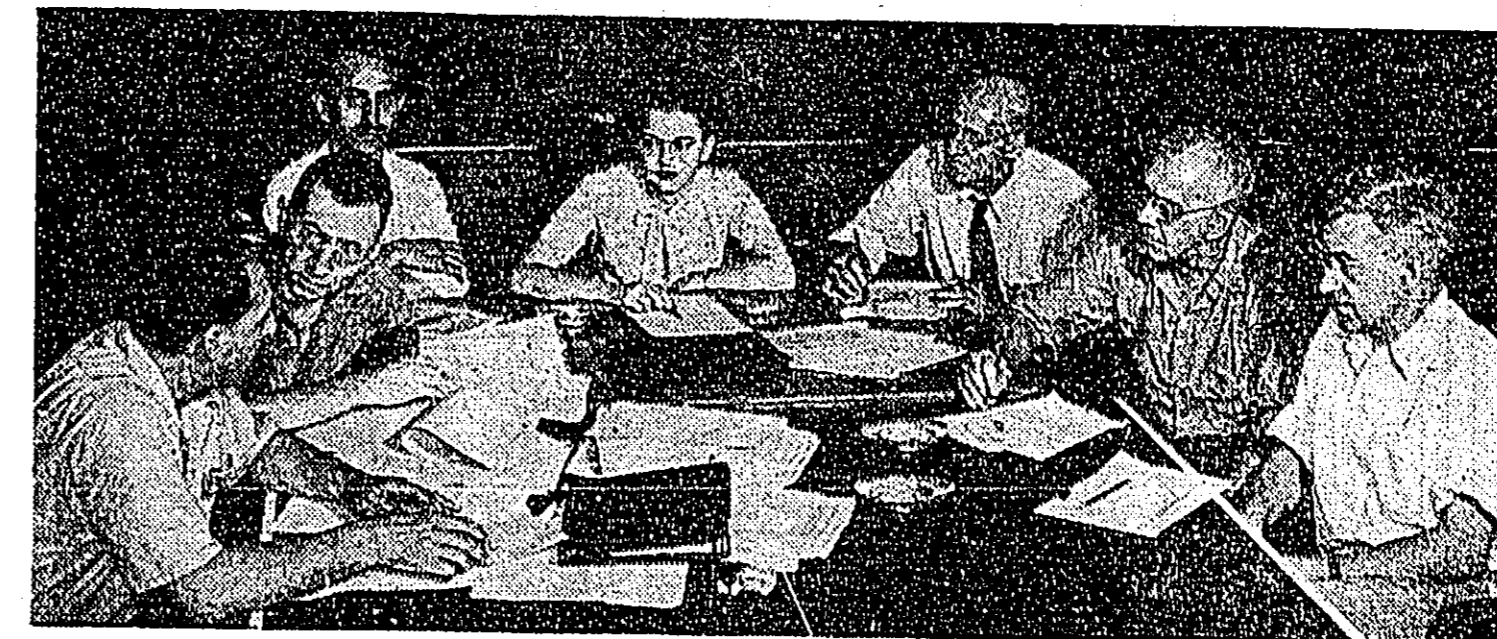
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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

September 5, 1947

Preparing to Report on Job Rates Stewards Urge Special Session For GE Locals



A session of the Job Evaluation committee of the Executive Board. Left to right, James Cognetta, Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, assigned to work with the committee, Anthony Villano, Mary McCartin, Alfred Pelrah, Eugene LeMoine and William Templeton, alternate. Four members, pictured below, were not on hand for the group photograph. George Judway, Michael Tedisco and Charles Ferris were on vacation and William Stewart was called away to meet his Turbine Division stewards. The committee's report is scheduled to be presented to the Sept. 16 membership meeting of 301. See story on page 4.



Stewart



Judway



Tedisco



Ferris

Veterans' Center

The 301 Veterans' Center is open from 1 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday at 301 Liberty St.

Burnison Pays Visit To Turbine Division

After flatly refusing the union's demand for a straight eight hour day in the Turbine Division, James Burnison, representing top management, paid a surprise visit Wednesday to the Turbine section of the plant. With him was James Reed of the local management.

They visited Bldg. 60 where workers are indignant both over the carboly tool speed-up and the newly installed 7½-hour day. When this week's issue of EU News went to press there had been no official comment on the inspection tour.

Turbine workers are standing united and firm in their determination to work no overtime until the company grants their demand for an eight hour day. Special meetings, held by all three shifts of Turbine workers at the union hall last week, voted solid support of the no overtime work policy until the short shift is ended.

Leo Jandreau, business agent, reported to the Turbine workers that Burnison refused to make any concession to the union's demand on the work schedule matter at a meeting last week in New York City.

Burnison claimed that people were satisfied with the 7½-hour day and that

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The meeting of the Stewards' Council Tuesday voted to urge the national UE officers to call a special conference of GE locals "to plan concerted action to meet the company drive against its workers."

The recommendation for the national conference was part of a resolution adopted condemning the General Electric Company for firing three women workers at the East Boston Lamp Plant and holding the threat of firing over 41 others "because of their inability to work under conditions of intolerable heat and humidity."

Schenectady workers also have felt the company's "vicious attitude toward its employees and their union," the resolution stated.

In reference to the East Boston affair, the stewards said:

GE Attitude Hard-Boiled

"The company's hard-boiled attitude, its indifference to the welfare of its employees, was shown not only in the firings, but also in its refusal to allow hundreds of other workers at the East Boston Lamp Plant to go home when other plants and offices in the area, including the state offices, had closed because of the impossible heat."

The rest of the resolution stated: "The company's action in East Boston is the worst in a series of actions showing its recent vicious attitude toward its employees and their union. We have felt this attitude here in the great difficulty in settling legitimate grievances. We have felt it particularly in such actions as the company's establishment of the 7½-hour shift in Turbine, its general speed-up drive, and its recent threat against a steward over the lunch hour discussions of his group.

Company Attacks Union

"It is evident that under the direction of Charles E. Wilson, the supervision of General Electric is engaged in a drive against the basic rights of General Electric workers and against their union, the UE-CIO.

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Officers Broadcast Labor Day Message

President Andrew Peterson, Vice-President William Hodges and Recording Secretary Helen Quirini took part with Milo Lathrop in the Labor Day broadcast of Local 301 over WSNY.

Sister Quirini pointed out that the Taft-Hartley law "demands that employers and unions shall discriminate against workers because of their political beliefs." She said the sponsors of the act "want us to begin to fight among ourselves, to weaken our organizations, so they can rule all of us in the interests of the few."

Brother Hodges declared, "Some powerful groups in America take a look at the future and are afraid. We are not afraid of more democracy. That's what we want. Those scared ones — who passed the Taft-Hartley law — wrote into the law a provision which attempts to prevent working people from organizing to undo the damage which Congress has done. They have passed a law to keep the working people out of politics."

Brother Peterson quoted the famous speech President Franklin D. Roosevelt made in 1944 to the Teamsters Union.

Union Representatives Attend Meeting of Traffic Committee

Helen Quirini and Willard Kuschel represented 301 Wednesday at the meeting of the city-wide traffic committee established through the initiative of the local. The Transport Workers, Local 2054 of the Steelworkers, the Schenectady Railway Co. and the city were represented, but nobody from GE or ALCO managements appeared.

Wendell Nelson, assistant to the works manager of the GE plant, sent word the company will install two more bus stops on its property. The bus company will re-route shop buses up Edison and Veeder to avoid streets congested with traffic.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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Next Membership Session Will Elect Trial Body

The Sept. 16 membership meeting will elect a trial committee of nine, under the constitutional provision, to conduct the trial of three members of the union charged with planning a campaign to discredit Local 301. The Aug. 19 membership meeting directed the union officers to file the charges against the trio, Frank Fiorillo, who calls himself chairman of the "Democratic Action Committee", and Martin Stanton and C. J. DiGirolamo, stewards in Bldg. 69.

Pros and cons of the case cannot be argued at the Sept. 16 meeting. The only business in connection with the charges will be the election of the committee, consisting of the nine members receiving the highest vote of persons nominated from the floor. The committee will make its report and recommendations to the October meeting.

It is charged that the three "jointly planned a campaign to discredit Local 301 of the UE, its officers and membership, and in furtherance of said campaign did prepare an anti-union statement for newspaper publication, which appeared in summary form as a news

Board Seeks Arbitration Of AER Step Rate Case

Following a deadlocked discussion on the New York level, the Executive Board voted to submit to arbitration the company's refusal to comply with the contract as it affects timing rates on piece workers' AERs.

The contract provides that all AERs should be set on the same standard step rates as established for day workers. The step rates provided increases for day workers from ½ cent to 4 ½ cents an hour, which have already been put into effect.

However, similar piece work rates have not been put into effect and complaints from workers in Bldgs. 14, 49 and 60 were filed.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau reported that a session last week with James Burnison brought no satisfaction.

301 on Air

Turn on your radio at 7:15 p.m. every Monday to hear the Local 301 program over WSNY.

item in the Schenectady Gazette on Aug. 5, 1947, and engaged in other anti-union activities."

Carey-Block Clique Vote Fraud Exposed

Despite an effort to elect Carey-Block followers as delegates to the national UE convention by a fraudulent vote, nine pro-UE delegates have been chosen by the big Westinghouse local, 601, at Pittsburgh, Pa.

The election committee consisted of nine members of whom five were members of the Carey-Block clique or sympathetic to it. The first count was announced as showing five pro-UE and four Carey-Block delegates elected. It was later revealed that Harvey Koontz, chairman of the committee, a member of the Carey-Block group, had called the results from the ballots for over two hours during the count without anyone checking on his accuracy.

Chairman Koontz defied an Executive Board order to have a recount. The local president had to go to court to get an order to turn the ballots over to the control of the local. Newspapers announced that Harry Block went to Pittsburgh personally to advise his clique on strategy in the ballot case.

When the recount finally took place, it showed that all nine delegates elected were pro-UE delegates and that every Carey-Block candidate was defeated.

The figures showed that the nine pro-UE candidates had had from 100 to 135 votes stolen from them and that the four Carey-Block candidates first declared elected had been handed from 16 to 72 votes which were not cast for them.

President Thomas J. Fitzpatrick of District 6 sent the facts about the election to all locals, because newspaper publicity was so distorted.

He Falls Off Ladder; Gets Warning Notice

An electrician working for V. L. Hoppe on test maintenance, Bldg. 11, fell off a ladder Aug. 28 when he was seven feet from the ground. His throat was cut in the accident and his arm bruised and he was treated at the works' hospital.

Next afternoon he received a warning notice (for being unsafe). Unfortunately he signed the warning notice and now he's plenty worried.

Giving a warning notice under such circumstances is something new, but foremen are making a policy now of sprinkling the notices around. This incident makes it timely to remind members not to sign warning notices. They aren't required to sign them and the union doesn't recognize notices as having any authority.

All September Meetings Outside Working Hours

The Executive Board voted recently that all meetings of the union, its committees, the Board itself and the Stewards' Council during September should be held outside of working hours.

"The purpose is to save the cost of lost time and help build the treasury, in view of the Taft-Hartley law and increasing difficulties in our relation with the GE", Leo Jandreau, business agent, said in a letter to all stewards.

First shift stewards met at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday for their monthly session and second shift stewards met at 1 p.m. the same day. Third shift stewards could attend either meeting. The agenda was the same at both meetings and votes taken on any issue in the afternoon were added to those taken at night.

Burnison Pays Visit To Turbine Division

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overtime is being worked whenever requested.

"I told him he was getting misinformation from the Schenectady management," Jandreau declared.

The Turbine workers at their meetings branded as untrue the management claims about overtime being worked. They expressed indignation about this kind of rumor spreading on the part of management. The meeting of third shift workers repudiated a rumor that workers on that shift were accepting overtime. They stand side by side with the other shifts, they made it clear, in holding the line in this union fight.

The three meetings of Turbine workers netted only three votes against the no overtime policy, out of hundreds of members attending. Board Member William Stewart presided at the meetings.

IS THE MAN NEXT TO YOU
A UNION MEMBER?

100 Per Cent PAC

Steward Donald Siskind, third shift, has collected PAC dollar contributions from his whole varnish group in Bldgs. 67, 71, 75 and 79. He is in Board Member Alfred Pelrah's section.

Peterson Hits GE Grievance Policy

The General Electric Company is saying "No" to all grievances involving requests which would increase costs, President Andrew Peterson told the 301 shop stewards' meeting Tuesday.

The request of a worker who is getting his job rate for an increase is regarded by the company as a bid for an increase in job rate and in cost.

Because of the company attitude, the union is now processing to New York City only cases involving violation of contract. Increased efforts must be made to settle other grievances right here in Schenectady, Peterson declared.

"Even on grievances involving contract violations," he charged, "the company in general says 'No', regardless of the merit of the cases."

He cited the East Boston plant firings, the 7 ½ hour work shift arbitrarily imposed on Turbine workers in Schenectady, and other instances.

"Part of the company's anti-union attitude is its refusal to arbitrate. It has openly announced it won't arbitrate any case involving cost. This is a violation of the contract."

Union Passport

A 301 check-off card was the only thing that saved Nicholas Caminiale of Bldg. 77 from an enforced stay in Canada on his recent visit there. When he got to Rouse's Point he found he had lost his wallet containing his various papers. But tucked away in another pocket was his latest 301 check-off card. The immigration officials accepted it as proof of his identity and he came back home.

Written Grievance Did It

When seven girls on the night shift in Bldg. 60 were kept waiting two hours for materials recently, they were paid only one hour waiting time. Steward Mary Skrocki tried to reason with Foreman John Dickson on the basis of the contract, but he said it would be one hour, and that was that. The next night she handed him a written grievance, citing chapter and verse. The seven girls got their waiting time vouchers without further word.

Appointed for Chest Drive

The Executive Board has named Vice-president William Hodges to represent Local 301 in the Schenectady Community Chest campaign. He will confer with GE management on plans for the drive.