

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE CIO

Vol. 1 No. 1

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

April 2, 1954

301 STAYS ON THE JOB

The phony attempt by UE's National Office boys to substitute appointed people for the elected representatives of Local 301 has failed.

The Company will continue to recognize the duly-elected representatives of Local 301 who have been serving the workers at GE for the past 17 years.

The Schenectady Gazette made this clear Wednesday morning in its story on recognition which stated as follows:

"A. C. Stevens, manager of GE's Schenectady relations and utilities department, said the company will continue to recognize all properly elected stewards."

In 1951 the contract was "temporarily" not in effect. At that time Local 301 Officers and Stewards learned how to keep on getting all the gains and protection without the contract. We succeeded in enforcing the conditions then and we shall continue to do so.

"At the same time," Stevens added, "the company will not recognize a new slate of UE local officers until 'adequate proof' can be presented that it was selected in accordance with Local 301's constitution and by-laws."

Thus Schenectady GE workers are assured of continuing enforcement of the Contract by the people elected to do the job. Local 301 stewards and officers were elected and sworn in Jan. 1, 1954 and no outsiders can come in and stir up trouble and create phony situations to disrupt affairs.

However, the outsiders will probably try to drum up phony stunts to make it look like they are doing a job of representing the people. Members should be on guard against these stunts.

From the very start UE's New York Officers and their New York lawyers have waged a phony campaign.

Every time they turn around they are going into court to get an injunction against somebody or to prevent somebody else from exercising his rights.

And every time they fail.

These outsiders can't get a foot in the door because GE workers realize that UE can no longer do a job for them. UE's approach to unity has been rejected by everyone and that leaves any GE workers who stay with it out in the cold—isolated and cut off from the vast majority of other employees in GE.

The only practical solution is to unite in one strong Union that can take on Boulware and make him come through with the demands we make. And while we are in the process of doing that, Local 301's elected representatives will continue on the job 24 hours a day protecting the interests and advancing the welfare of Schenectady GE workers.

NLRB Rejects UE Stall

The NLRB hearings on Local 301 members' request for an election to vote for IUE-CIO continued to move at slow-motion speed because of National UE's delaying tactics.

UE suffered a major setback Wednesday afternoon when Hearing Officer I. L. Broadwin rejected UE's request that the hearings be postponed. UE Attorney David Scribner asked the delay until after a New York City Court decides on several phony cases Scribner started for the specific purpose of delaying an election.

The other half of UE's comedy team of lawyers, Marshall Perlin, almost got himself thrown out of the hearing for "contemptuous conduct". Broadwin threatened the action following insulting remarks from this guy who Local 301 members threw out of the Local

Local 301 continued to put the facts into the record, showing the democratic manner in which the local leadership and members acted on the decision to unite GE workers.

Officers and Executive Board members testified concerning the March 10 membership meetings held in the plant when more than 11,000 workers voted for the disaffiliation. They also told of the 12,000 signatures on petitions calling for an election and affiliation with IUE-CIO.

They described the March 8 stewards meetings when more than 90 per cent of the stewards voted in favor of the officers' unanimous recommendation that Local 301 quit UE and join IUE-CIO.

These witnesses were cross-examined at great length by UE's red-tape experts.

Regarding UE's stalling,

the NLRB official declared:

"I'm telling you quite frankly, I'm beginning to get the impression you are just stalling for time."

Discussing UE's repetition of questions, the hearing officer observed:

"This repetition is awful. It is unnecessary to repeat over and over and over again."

When Scribner persisted in talking about various court orders and injunctions, Broadwin observed:

"You can't enjoin thousands from seeking new representation."

MASTHEAD

The new masthead on the shop paper represents the new affiliation of Local 301. Although the face is new, the policy of Local 301 will continue to be the militant advancement of wages and working conditions of GE workers.

'UE Couldn't Do the Job'

Clyde Holmes was Chairman of the UE GE Local 1227, Long Island City, N. Y., which disaffiliated from UE and joined IUE-CIO immediately after it heard that Local 301 had switched.

A week later, Brother Holmes sent a letter to all Chairmen of Shop Units in Local 1227. (It is an Amalgamated Local and those leaders normally called President are called Chairman.)

In this letter he stated:

"I am writing you as a former GE Shop Chairman and a member of the UE-GE National Negotiating Committee, because I feel I should tell you what I have found out about UE, and why my shop voted unanimously to disaffiliate and join IUE-CIO.

"In national negotiations with GE, the UE—because it was so weak due to all the members that have left it—was not given any respect, nor could it do an effective job for us.

"This weakness showed up in our own Local, when after a militant two-week strike we had to go back without any gains—only because the UE couldn't give us the support we needed.

"Today, with the disaffiliation from UE of the 20,000 people in Local 301, and their affiliation with IUE-CIO, there isn't much left of UE. You owe it to yourself and your members to place them in the best possible bargaining position by joining forces with the strength of 400,000 members in IUE-CIO."

Splitting Started By Jiminez Deal

Have you wondered why UE has refused to criticize the IAM for intervening in Schenectady GE affairs and trying to split up our Local?

The reason is that UE can't criticize its own creation. For the phony IAM "boom" is nothing less than the illegitimate off-spring of Jiminez and the IAM hack!

'No Headway'

UE has made absolutely no headway with its oft-repeated story that the IUE-CIO Contract "terminates" in June.

No headway was made because it simply is not true.

The truth of the matter is that when IUE-CIO and UE go into negotiations this year the demands will be submitted under the modification provisions of the two Contracts. This provision allows IUE-CIO to negotiate wage increases and Contract improvements without "terminating" the Contract.

PAL, IF YOU NEED ANY HELP IN GETTING CARDS SIGNED... CALL ON ME!!



IAM Move Aimed At Splitting Local

IAM realizes it hasn't the chance in Schenectady of a snowball in summertime.

But it is driving hard to try and split us up so that maybe it can weaken our ranks and come back in the future to take away small sections of our Local.

That is why IAM is making a big play for a few skilled workers. It is trying to carve this section out of our plant and split our unity. This section of our Local has been part of 301 since we were formed, and it will continue to be part of 301 in the future.

IAM Must Strike To Get What We Already Have!

IAM has nothing to offer GE workers except a one-way ticket to an early grave. But it does promise to see to it that your widow will receive "Death Benefits" after you are dead and buried.

The one-way IAM ticket to the cemetery stems from the fact that IAM has but a few thousand members in GE. As a result, it has no bargaining strength against the GE company.

That weakness is fatal in any GE plant of any size. In Schenectady it would be sheer murder!

IAM has only a couple GE production plants of any size. The two main plants are at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Evendale, Ohio. Each employs only a few hundred people. Most IAM members in GE are in isolated craft units.

In each case IAM tried to negotiate gains that have long been enjoyed by members of Local 301. And each time the company laughed in the face of that weak outfit asking for those conditions when it did not have the strength to back up the demands.

The result was that IAM members were forced out on strike.

The IAM members in Milwaukee went out on strike last May 2 to win the same gains Local 301 has had for years. Four months later they were still on strike and the company had not made any change in its bargaining attitude.

The strike was a pitiable failure and the members went back to work after more than 126 days on the picket line, whipped by the company. (Even after the strike, rates paid CIO members at another GE plant in town were still 17¢ an hour more than those paid to IAM members.)

In Evendale, at the GE jet plant, the story was the same.

IAM struck the plant in March, 1953.

Ten weeks later the strike ended, but again the company did not change its bargaining attitude. The reason simply was that IAM is too weak in GE to make the company change.

Furthermore, IAM has no National Contract with GE.

That would make it impossible for IAM ever to win the conditions that Local 301 members have long enjoyed. It would make IAM start from scratch — from ZERO — to try and win what we have had for years.

With no strength in GE that phony craft outfit could never do it.

IAM would not help one bit. In fact, it would hurt GE workers even more than they have been hurt in UE in the past 5 years.

For in IAM we would be split up even more. We would be splintered by a phony craft outfit that does not understand the problems of production workers and has no experience in handling GE.

In short, it would be a one-way ride to the Cemetery.

Phonies Find It's Not Easy To Be Like 301

Local 301, the Local that has had headquarters at 301 Liberty Street for over the past ten years is the only Union on the job 24 hours a day for Schenectady GE workers.

It has been for 17 years and it will continue to be.

This new outfit with an office on Broadway that is trying to act like a Union . . . that has stooped to the depths of parroting the Local 301 shop paper in an attempt to gain undeserved credit . . . does not represent anybody (except the UE National Office!)

That outfit is a paper local. And the local paper is a phony! Each has about as much substance as a McCarthy headline.

Schenectady GE workers will never get a grievance settled or a wage increase from that phony outfit that doesn't even do a good job of mimick-

"Comp" Awards Total \$13,952

From the first of March to March 19, Local 301 won awards in Compensation cases that totaled \$13,952.40 for Schenectady GE workers involved.

That figure represents awards for injuries, such as to hand, arm, leg, etc.

Weekly benefits to people unable to work due to accidents totaled \$8,516.45 up to March 19.

One worker alone received \$4,000 from Local 301's handling of the case. Another person, a widow, received an award that will carry her throughout her life.

Those are just examples of how Local 301 is on the job, day in and day out, to protect the standards and advance the welfare of Schenectady GE workers.

ing the Local 301 that has been doing the job of protecting the rights and advancing the standards of GE workers for 17 years.

301 On the Job

Bldg. 60: M. DeMidio had been doing Class "A" work for four months before receiving the classification. Steward Martin has filed a case demanding retroactive adjustment.

Bldg. 85: E. Knack, S. Stage and M. Belak in Steward E. Knack's group are protesting inadequate porter service. Union demands situation be corrected.

Bldg. 273: E. Myers in Steward A. Deere's group requests 2 hours average earnings according to past practice for work performed on end shield bearing cap 181-3723, drwg. 159C450.

Bldg. 273: Union demands 3.00 payment for extra work performed by E. Myers in Steward A. Deere's group on inner shell 170-3689, drwg. 149D693-1-2.

Bldg. 22: Group under Steward J. Miller are protesting improper conduct of Foreman J. Garry and leader of the group. Union demands management abide by previous commitments.

Bldg. 84: C. Brzozowski, F. Charbronneau, D. Colluci in

Steward W. Kuschel's group have been operating tractor trains. Union demands proper reclassification and increase of rate.

Bldg. 16: Test group under Steward R. Bisillon protest the hazardous condition on their job. Union demands qualified carpenter to be used to build scaffolds instead of using test men.

Bldg. 16: Group under Steward P. Beach feel that the timing rate of .92 on milling machine work is too low. Union demands increase to 1.08 based on comparison to other work done in plant.

Bldg. 273: Tool crib group in Steward C. Aldrich's section are protesting working conditions on the job. Union demands investigation by management and correction of situation.

Bldg. 273: Foreman S. Tanski is attempting to use Class "B" men on Class "A" work and Class "C" men on Class "B" work. Union demands upgrading of sufficient number in group to perform work of classification available.

Wisconsinites Fed Up With McCarthy Say 'Joe Must Go'

Last week the Local 301 News focused attention on Jumping Joe McCarthy, the witch-hunting Senator from Wisconsin. The first paragraph of that story stated:

"It's too bad McCarthy isn't up for election this year; he would be headed for defeat."

That was on Friday. Sunday came an announcement from Sauk City, Wisconsin, that a courageous weekly newspaper editor, Leroy Gore, had started the "Joe-Must-Go Club."

"Joe" means McCarthy. And by "Go" they mean "get out!"

The purpose of the club, Gore stated, is to collect signatures on petitions demanding a special recall election to unseat America's foremost exponent of Fascism.

Already 125,000 residents have signed the petition; 400,000 more names are needed to get the election.

This is a drive that deserves support. We're putting a ten-spot in the mail today.

Unity Re-gained By 301 Move

The first National Contract won by UE was on April 6, 1938.

That Contract was won when all organized Locals were united in CIO.

Six big GE Locals won that contract. They were:

1. Local 201, Lynn
2. Local 203, Bridgeport, Conn.
3. Local 602, New Kensington, Pa.
4. Local 707, Cleveland, Ohio
5. Local 901, Fort Wayne, Ind.
6. Local 301, Schenectady.

The first five of those big GE Locals are in IUE-CIO today. And now Local 301 is joining IUE-CIO to reunite the chain into one big Union so GE workers can win the gains they deserve.

This A Grievance?

UE thinks its got a grievance. And it's playing it up like it was the biggest thing since Joe Louis kayoed Max Schmeling.

It is the Gertrude Bruch case.

But the facts (something that always manages to escape the UE publicity hacks from New York City) are that the Steward got three job offerings for Gertrude Bruch before she was laid off! She refused.

After she received her notice of lay-off due to lack of work, she was offered a job in Porcelain, second shift. She refused it.

Next she was offered another job on Cleaning, second shift. She refused it, too. (Said she couldn't work second shift.)

Finally her Steward got her an offer for a cleaning job on first shift. She refused this, too!

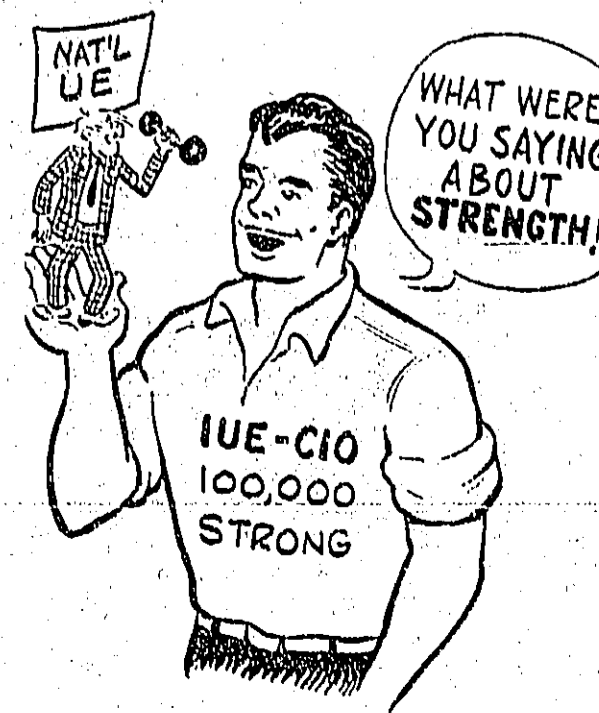
That is UE's "grievance".

Outsiders' Trickery

The groundless "contempt" case brought in New York city by the New York city lawyers for UE was so phony that last Tuesday the Judge ordered UE to make it clear just what it was charging.

Judge Edward J. Dimock directed Dave Scribner to clarify the charges. This case will go up in smoke just like all the other phony cases.

For anyone who looks at the facts can see that the outsiders are using these tricks to try to sneak inside.



IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS

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How UE Has Stalled 14 Months

For the past year the National Office of UE has been dragging its feet to hold back the efforts of Local 301 to gain unity in the GE chain.

Just in case the outsiders again throw up the chant of "What's the hurry?", here is the record. It shows that—far from being hurried—the National Office has pulled every trick and every stalling tactic in the book in order to prevent Local 301 from uniting against GE:

Feb. 1, 1953—

Officers of Local 301 met with the National Officers in New York and demanded a constructive approach to the problem—something other than the discredited "programmatic" approach. The National officers would offer no solution.

May, 1953—

Local 301 leaders continued to seek information on how they might unite the GE chain. Meetings were held with AFL and the IUE-CIO. The facts disclosed that AFL could not hope to do anything for GE workers by way of unity. In fact, it would be worse in AFL than it had been in UE. At that time no satisfactory conditions could be agreed on with IUE-CIO.

Oct. 1953—

Again Local 301 leaders met with the National Office and urged action to unite against GE. Again the National Office refused. This was just prior to the Lynn election (which UE lost for the third time) and to which Local 301 contributed \$4,000.

Jan. 1, 1954—

The National Office decided on and proceeded to set up an espionage system in the back room of the Local 301 office. This spy system then proceeded to encourage stewards to work through the outside organizers, rather than through the regular channels. The whole campaign of the spy system was designed to undermine the Local and make GE workers lose faith in their Local leadership.

March 4, 1954—

A clean-cut proposal was made to Local 301 on how unity against GE could be arranged. This proposal was so fair that no honest Trade Union leader could refuse. It eliminated all the obstacles that existed in the past and also provided for making the same sort of proposition to the other GE locals still in UE, thereby making it possible to unite the entire GE chain in one Union.

March 5—

The Officers of Local 301 replied to the proposal and agreed to recommend it to the entire leadership and then the membership.

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March 6 and 7—

After a thorough discussion over the week-end, the Executive Board agreed to recommend the proposal to the Stewards.

March 8—

Throughout the day of March 8 and much of the next day the Stewards considered this proposal and practically unanimously agreed to recommend it to the membership. This completed the job of consideration by the entire leadership of Local 301. Then the proposal went to the members.

March 9—

Throughout the day petitions on the subject were circulated among the membership explaining the proposal, getting the reaction of the membership and announcing in-plant meetings for the next day to further discuss the subject and take a vote on it. More than 12,000 of the 15,000 members signed the petitions endorsing the proposal. This was the most united response ever given by the membership to any major proposition made in the entire history of Local 301. After this thorough canvass of the members, the leaders of Local 301 addressed a letter to UE President Fitzgerald informing him of the decision to bring about unity in GE and urging him to do the same.

March 10—

At in-plant meetings throughout the day, 11,307 of the 15,000 members of Local 301 voted in favor of uniting in IUE-CIO to fight GE.

March 12—

The Local 301 newspaper carried a story reminding all GE workers of the regular membership meeting to be held March 15 and stated that the subject would then be put to a vote on whether the meeting should ratify the action taken in the plant on Tuesday and Wednesday. Late that afternoon the UE National Office went into a New York City court to get an "injunction", the weapon of employers, designed to prevent the members of Local 301 from exerting their democratic rights.

March 13—

Throughout the day the National Office was importing hundreds of paid hacks into Schenectady to prepare for wrecking the Monday meeting. They hoped to get them into the meeting through the so-called injunction provision that permitted "any UE member" (whether he was from San Francisco or Chicago) in the meeting.

March 15—

Throughout the day the Executive Board was in continuous session at Local 301 headquarters to answer all questions pertaining to the proposal. The regular membership meetings were held and only 14 people out of the entire group present at both meetings opposed the proposal. The recommendation was adopted overwhelmingly.

March 16—

Local 301 petitioned the NLRB to conduct an election on grounds that a schism existed and the membership supported IUE-CIO.

March 17—

National UE again went into court and tried to get Local 301 leaders cited for "contempt".

March 19—

The NLRB conference was held in Schenectady and everyone but UE agreed to an early election.

March 20 and 21—

UE's outside organizers made their famous deal with IAM.

March 22—

UE encouraged IAM to petition for the entire unit, knowing full well that IAM had no chance, but that it might succeed in splitting out unity and disrupting our affairs.

March 24—

Formal hearings started before the NLRB at the Court House. UE immediately started stalling. UE concluded by requesting a postponement and it was granted.

March 26—

The Hearing was resumed and UE continued to stall. The same day it went to the company and demanded that the company refuse to recognize elected local representatives who have been serving Schenectady workers for years.

March 29—

Again the hearing was postponed.

March 30—

UE came to town with another phony injunction. This one was designed to stop the NLRB hearing altogether and make everyone start all over—from scratch! Realizing the phoniness of the "injunction," the NLRB refused to go along with the New York City lawyers and proceeded with the case. Perlin, who formerly worked in Local 301 but was run out, continued to drum up phony stalls and delays. Finally, Perlin got so ridiculous that the Hearing Officer had to tell him: "You are just stalling for time."

So the question is not "What's the hurry?" . . . but "WHAT'S UE AFRAID OF?"

The collage consists of several overlapping documents:

- PROCEDURE ON LAYOFF AND RECALL of the General Electric Works of the Ohio Lamp Works and Local No. 722, IUE-CIO**: Contains Article XI and Article XII of the GE-IUE (CIO) National Agreement.
- PROCEDURE ON LAYOFF AND RECALL of the General Electric Works of the Cleveland Equipment Works and Local 707, IUE-CIO**: Contains Article XI and Article XII of the GE-IUE (CIO) National Agreement.
- AGREEMENT between General Electric Company (Philadelphia Plant) and Local No. 119, IUE-CIO**: Contains Article XI regarding reduction in working force.
- SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT between General Electric Company (Holyoke Plant) and Local 264, IUE-CIO**: Contains Article XI regarding layoff and rehiring procedure.
- SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT between General Electric Company (Fitchburg Works) and Local No. 286, IUE-CIO**: Contains Article XI regarding layoff and rehiring procedure.
- GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (Syracuse Plants) and LOCAL 320, IUE(CIO)**: Contains Section 3 - Increase in Forces.

Some IUE-CIO Local Supplements with GE providing for plant-wide seniority.