

Wilson Wants to Blame Depression Upon Unions

In his Chicago speech, distributed last week to all employees with the Works News, Charles E. Wilson, GE president, made it clear that Big Business knows a depression is coming, and will spend a fortune in publicity to sell the American people the fiction that labor is to blame.

In the midst of wholesale attacks on labor generally, the UE, CIO President Philip Murray, the Wagner Act, the right to strike, and price control, Wilson delivered these words with respect to the CIO's current discussion of wage raises to meet living costs:

"Now, if there is actually any substance to these reports of still further increases, it is certainly our duty to make it crystal clear to the American public, including the workers themselves, just what they are heading into. They are heading for depression and unemployment just as certainly and logically as night follows day."

Wilson makes his point about wages interfering with profits at the very time that Big Business, as shown by official government reports, is making profits at an all-time high rate, higher even than during the war, while real wages go down.

The conditions which Wilson would consider ideal, huge profits and a "co-operative" labor movement pushing for a speed-up instead of higher wages, existed throughout the nineteen twenties. The result was the Hoover depression of 1929. The people could not buy what was produced.

Apparently Wilson and his Big Business pals think the American people have forgotten.

Oil Tank Job Price Raised

The price on an oil tank job from Bloomfield, N. J., was raised from \$54 to \$60 last week after the case was sent back to Bldg. 78 A from Bldg. 41 for discussion between union representatives, William Mastriani and Pat Miranda, and management representatives, Foreman Fetter and the head rate man.

Originally, when Mastriani protested the price as too low, Fetter insisted the price was properly covered by the PR (price rate) tables. During the new discussions, however, management admitted the tables did not correctly cover all operations involved in the job and ordered a time study.

Activities Committee To Meet Monday Night

Lanson L. Cole, chairman of the Activities Committee, has called a meeting of the group for 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, at 301 Hall to make plans for a program of monthly social and family nights. Any member interested is invited to attend this meeting.

301 Demands Raises In Low Piece Rates

(Continued from Page 1)

varying degrees from the unfair application of the system.

The action is part of a series of cases developed by Local 301 during the past few months, aimed at correcting the injustices suffered by various groups under the GE wage structure, both as to hourly rates and piece prices.

Committee Meets

Committeemen and Board members from the largest groups working the low AER's met at headquarters last Thursday and voted to proceed with the case, and to serve jointly as a negotiating committee. Those present were Grace Friello, Virginia Murphy, and Al Raymond, of Bldg. 53; Antoinette Daly, Irene Patterson, and Stanley Bishop, of 69; Helen Quirini, of 81; Lucy DeCarlo and Dewey Brashear of 89; and Frances Manna, Warren McDonald, and Leland Sisto, of 269. Unable to attend but expected to serve also are Lucy Zeppitelli, Betty Roberts, Lucy Swatling, and A. J. Esposito, of 53; and Martin Stanton and Peter Miller of 69. Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, filed the case for the committee.

AER Too Low

The case is based on the fact that since the strike victory the lowest production hourly rate in the plant is 89 1/2 cents.

The union then points out that an AER of 89 1/2 or 95 1/2 is nothing more than a hourly rate. It continues:

"An AER equal to the hourly rate violates the incentive work principle even in its unsatisfactory form in effect at GE.

"It is an accepted principle among management-minded time study engineers that an average piece worker operating at normal efficiency, at a steady pace but without pressure or speed-up, should earn from 15 to 25 percent above the hourly rate for the same job. Dur-

Schenectady CIO-PAC Cuts Down GOP Vote

Local Republican machine leaders have some election figures to worry about, as evidence that CIO-PAC made real headway here this year in the face of a strong Republican tide in other places.

Representative Bernard Kearney lost Schenectady County by 275 votes. In 1942 he carried the county by 15,000 votes and in 1944 by 9,000 votes.

The Democratic, ALP candidate, Carroll A. Gardner, carried Rotterdam and all districts in the following wards in Schenectady: the Fourth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth. He also carried the Sixth, Tenth and Thirteenth Wards and carried the city as a whole by a plurality of 715.

Labor's attack on William Dunn, GE foreman and Republican candidate for sheriff, made him low man on the Republican county ticket. His opponent on the Democratic slate, William Sherry, backed by PAC, carried Rotterdam and the Fourth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth wards of Schenectady. Dunn failed to get the majority of votes in the city.

Owen Begley, Democratic and ALP, backed by PAC, carried the Fourth, Seventh and Ninth wards and Rotterdam in his contest against Oswald D. Heck for Assembly.

PAC set up organizations in every ward and laid the foundation for continued political action in 1947 and in the vital 1948 presidential election year.

ing the war . . . a 20 percent premium for normal operation became the accepted figure. In some cases the War Labor Board ordered as high as 25 percent."

Basing its claim only on the GE incentive figure of 15 percent, and applying the step rate plan, the union shows the 89 1/2-cent AER should be \$1.06 1/2, and the 95 1/2-cent AER should be \$1.10 1/2.

Because the lowest hourly job rate is 89 1/2 cents, the union contends that instead of "breaking-in" and "waiting time" rates now as low as 80 1/2 cents, no such rate should be less than 89 1/2 cents.

A third part of the case concerns the breaking-in period guarantee. The union claims the hourly guarantee should apply for as long as genuine breaking-in is required, and that the usual four weeks is often wholly inadequate, when an operator is required to learn many operations.

Electrical Union News

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

VOL. III—No. 32

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

November 21, 1946

1947 Program for Local 301

Present officers drew up a 1947 program for Local 301 which the Executive Board last week adopted and voted to recommend to the membership.

The slate of candidates headed by Leo Jandreau, running for reelection as business agent, and Andrew Peterson, running for reelection as president, is pledged to work for and fight for this program. It is the official campaign platform of this slate.

Here is the program:

A. Bargaining Program

1. Continue and extend the drive to correct the vicious inequities in GE wages and piece prices.
 - a) Hourly rates in line with other plants and industries; AER's with proper piece price relationship to job values.
 - b) Automatic progression to top of each hourly rate.
 - c) Guarantee minimum piece work earnings equal to hourly rates at all times, and higher according to circumstances.
 - d) Guarantee average earnings during price disputes.
 - e) Clarify right to time study.
2. A general increase to meet the cost of living rise since January 1946, using all means of community and worker pressure to avoid the need of a strike.
3. Correct the grievance procedure to end the intolerable stalling by the company — provide for three shop grievance steps, with the foreman, general foreman, and superintendent; then to 41; then local arbitration; no sending of cases away to general management in New York.
4. A genuine on-the-job training and apprenticeship system for returned G.I.'s.
5. Eliminate remaining wage differentials against women.
6. A real pension plan, with guarantees against forced retirement on less than an adequate pension.
7. Paid holidays, and vacations up to three weeks after ten years.
8. Stop the company's "decentralization" by guaranteeing jobs to employees displaced when department closes down.
9. Union shop.

B. Organization

1. Complete the enrollment of all in departments under contract.
2. Organize the office workers, so that in future collective bargaining the whole plant may be united.

C. General Union Activities

1. Establish a union welfare fund, with elected trustees, to assist members in need on basis of need — fund to be built up by allocation of five cents out of every member's monthly dues.
2. A veterans' service center, conducted by the Veterans' Committee, to handle the problems of GE veterans under the GI Bill of Rights, housing, Selective Service, and other legislation, and the special plant problems of veterans under the union contract.
3. Develop a full program of sports and social activities, with building socials and sports contests between buildings.
4. Plan NOW the establishment of a Union Hall fund, so that as soon as construction materials can be spared from housing needs, construction may start on a union hall and social center fitting the place of this union in the community.

D. Civic Activities

1. Take full part in the life of the community as the largest group in the community — campaign for the interests of the home-owners and tenants, for city and county services, parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, schools, sewers, etc.
2. Keep up and develop the campaign for sound legislation in the interest of ALL the people — lower prices, taxes in accordance with genuine ability to pay, high purchasing power, all the Roosevelt policies needed to prevent another depression and maintain peace.

2 Slates to Run For 301 Offices In Dec. 2 Voting

A special membership meeting of Local 301 approved Sunday by an overwhelming vote the slate of candidates for general officers nominated by the Committeemen's meeting Nov. 12 to run in the Dec. 2 elections and endorsed by the Executive Board.

This slate consists of Leo Jandreau, candidate for reelection as business agent; Andrew Peterson, for reelection as president; Joseph Dominelli, vice-president; Marshall White, for reelection as treasurer; Helen Quirini, recording secretary; Lillian Bliss, assistant recording secretary; William Mastriani, for reelection as chief shop steward; Harmon Cartwright, sergeant-at-arms; James Davidson, for reelection as guide; and Albert Davis, James Kelly and Edmund C. Tanski, trustees. Davis and Kelly are now trustees.

After the vote approving this slate was taken and the demonstration died down a bit, Jandreau took the "mike" to urge that a full slate of candidates be nominated to (Continued on Page 3)

Union Wins Extensions In Retirement Cases

Extensions of retirement dates, ranging up to nine months, were won for 16 workers in a special meeting of Local 301 representatives with Charles Marcy, supervisor of personnel, Monday.

The 16 included all those slated for immediate compulsory retirement because they had reached the age of 65, who objected to retiring.

Where special problems or low pensions make it difficult for the employees to accept retirement, the cases will be taken up again before their scheduled dates of retirement.

The whole problem of retirement on inadequate pensions is expected to be a big subject in the next contract negotiations. The union takes the position that it should be made possible for workers to retire early on adequate pensions, but that no person who can work should be forced to retire on a starvation income.

Election Committee Members Appointed

The Committeemen's meeting Nov. 12 appointed an election committee to make arrangements, with the business agent, for the annual union election of general officers Dec. 2 and to serve as tellers.

Those named are: William Fisher, Bldg. 81; Raymond Wagner, 28; Rudy Ellis, 46; Fred Pacelli, 101; John Pasquerella, 285; Frank Emspak, 46; Anthony Esposito, 53; Larry Gebro, 89; J. Green, 66; William Stewart, 60 and Mary McCartin, 28.

Also James Cognetta, 52; John Woutila, 28; Mrs. Jean LuBrant, 285; Joseph Rotunda, 73; William A. Downs, 15; Donald Palmer, 17; Clifford Leger, 50; Peter Sorenson, 19; Sam Scott, 285; John V. Kasitch, 53, and Leland Sisto, 269.

Also William O. Young, 273; George Judway, 18; Fred Cameron, 49; Ralph Pannone, 269; Audna Pitcher, 89; S. Lasak, 28; Walter Plummer, 60; William Weber, 5; Enoch Wassell, 77; Martin Burgess, 52, and Dewey Brashear, 89.

On this page are printed the committee's rules for the elections and the list of polling places. Further election details will be printed next week.

Dadson Leaves Board Because of New Job

Because a new GE job takes him out of town, John Dadson has resigned from the Local 301 Executive Board on which he represented the Campbell Ave. plant.

Anthony Villano, shop chairman for the research laboratory, Bldg. 5 and Bldg. 37, who has been acting as a member of the Board, will take over the Campbell Ave. representation.

CIO Radio Program

Speakers on the Capital District CIO Council radio program at 6 P. M. Wednesday, Nov. 27, over WTRY will be Lou Slocum, Farmers Union organizer, and Frank T. Murphy, president of Local 930, United Auto Workers, at the Ford plant in Green Island.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee
Dewey Brashear Ray Flanigan
William Mastriani
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. - Schenectady, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

Rules Governing the Election

The Election Committee recommends in accordance with the Constitution the following procedure to govern the elections of general officers and Executive Board for the year of 1947.

The general election will take place Monday, Dec. 2, on General Electric property. The polls will be open with allowances being made where noon hours are different.

Time

6 a.m.8 a.m.
12 noon.....12:30 p.m.
7 p.m.7:30 p.m.
10:30 p.m.12 midnight

Polling places will be posted in the shops, determining where each member will be able to vote.

Eligibility to vote will require a member to be in good standing within the terms of the constitution, which means that dues must be paid for the month of September and new applications must be received at the union office not later than Nov. 25.

Members in good standing will have their names listed from the check-off record used by the company and the union. To receive a ballot a voter will give name and check number at the polls, and sign the register. A member whose name does not appear on the eligible list shall receive a ballot which will be placed in a blank envelope, to be inserted within a large envelope with name, building, and check number, on outside of

Election Districts

District Poll Location Bldg.	Districts
95.....	87, 98A, 95, 99, 99A, 95B, 258, 259, 261
269.....	265, 267, 269
273.....	59, 273
285.....	285
107.....	107, 109
40.....	Parts of 40 and 40B
85.....	84, 85
CAP & Race Track.....	CAP & Race Track
5.....	5, 7, 2, 37
26.....	23, 24, 26, 28, 29
10.....	8, 10, 12, 9, 11, 13, 13F
16.....	12, 14, 16, 30
18.....	18, 18A, Parts of 40 and 40B
17.....	11, 15, 17, 19
46.....	42, 46, 50
60.....	52 Turbine, 60
49.....	57, 61, 63, 49
53.....	60 I.C., 53
52.....	66, 56, 52
68.....	64, 72, 76, 70J, 91, 68
69.....	65, 69, 73, 73A, Shipping & Test
77.....	67, 77, 77A, 79, 75, 64, 71, 234
89.....	81, 89
97.....	93, 96, 101, 105, 97

envelope, which will be checked by the election committee to determine whether he is eligible to vote. Blank space will be provided on the ballot for each office, for those wishing to vote for others not appearing on the ballot.

We recommend that the elections be tabulated as quickly as possible and be announced in the local press after the report is signed by the committee.

We further recommend that the election of Executive Board members will start on Tuesday, Dec. 3, and continue throughout the week, until all board members are elected. This will also include a representative to the Board for women at large.

In the election of Executive Board members, only duly elected shop representatives will be eligible to vote. No proxy votes will be permitted.

The candidates for President on both slates shall be authorized to appoint a watcher at each polling place.

There will be no campaigning on company property.

Union Headquarters will be open for voting from 8 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2.

Eligible voters who are not working or those unemployed members who may be paid up to date through unemployed stamps, may vote at union headquarters.

Gazette Takes New Prize For Distorted Reporting

The story which the Gazette ran "reporting" Sunday's membership meeting of Local 301 should win an iron cross for dishonesty and maliciousness. But in view of the paper's past record and its close connection with GE, nobody should be surprised at the distorted account of the nominating session.

The Gazette deliberately gave the false impression that the membership forced the nomination of a slate in opposition to the one recommended by the Committeemen's meeting.

Actually, the membership overwhelmingly voted approval of the Committeemen's slate at the start of the meeting and then permitted other nominations to be made from the floor.

The Gazette failed to mention the fact that Leo Jandreau, early in the meeting, urged that a full opposition slate be run.

The headline and the lead of the story emphasized the "opposition" slate. At the very tail end was a passing reference to the fact that the Committeemen's slate was "ratified."

2 Slates to Run For 301 Offices

(Continued from Page 1)

competes for the offices so that the membership would have two names to choose between for every place on the ballot.

"We want opposition," he said. "And I particularly hope that the people who are nominated now for another slate won't withdraw."

During the nominations which followed, all the names listed in a recent leaflet of the "Democratic Action" faction as an opposition slate were suggested as candidates.

Of these original "Democratic Action" candidates, the following were nominated without opposition: Christian Herbeck for president; Larry Fagnon, treasurer; James W. Kennedy, recording secretary; Stephen James, guide, and John Dunn and Harry Frick, trustees.

Hodges Is Substituted

The group produced a substitute candidate, William Hodges, to replace its previously announced one, Felix Pelchat, for vice president. After both Hodges and Pelchat were nominated, the chair put the customary question as to whether both would run. Pelchat was absent.

"He declines," said David Fisher, floor leader of the "Democratic Action" group, and produced a signed declination. Hodges was nominated without opposition.

There was another substitution, in the case of chief shop steward, when Carmon Di Girolamo, the leaflet candidate, declined in favor of Foster Campbell who was nominated without opposition.

Kenneth Sheehan, leaflet candidate for business agent, beat Robert French for the nomination by a vote of 168 to 117.

Farrell Declines

Fisher, originally announced candidate for assistant recording secretary, was defeated by George Farrell, the present 301 assistant secretary, by a vote of 167 to 123. Farrell, who was not at Sunday's meeting, declined in writing the next day. Under the rules adopted by the meeting Fisher's name will go on the ballot instead.

For sergeant-at-arms, the "Democratic Action" candidate Frank Civitello polled 104 votes to 73 for Allen Townsend and 83 for Gene Le Moine.

A "leaflet" candidate for trustee, Harry Bryant, declined. Jack Mele, who described himself definitely as not a "Democratic Action" candidate, was the third man nominated for trustee from the floor. He is at present a 301 trustee.

Mastriani and Jandreau, nominated for chief shop steward and for business agent respectively from the floor, both declined.

Crane Followers To Get Helpers Saturday Too!

From now on, crane followers who work Saturday—overtime—in Bldg. 60 will be provided with helpers on the same basis that they are Monday through Friday.

The General Electric management agreed to this demand of the union after a grievance session last week with Leo Jandreau, business agent.

GE had been making the crane followers work without helpers Saturday. Committeemen, with the backing of the workers, served notice there would be no more such Saturday work unless helpers were supplied.

Jandreau Condemns Attacks on Union

Attacks which the "Democratic Action" faction have made on the UE by leaflets and in the public press play into the hands of GE at the very time the union needs all possible strength and unity, Leo Jandreau, business agent, warned the 301 membership meeting Sunday and the Committeemen's meeting Nov. 12.

Brother Jandreau spoke Sunday after David Fisher, "Democratic Action" leader, told the meeting his group was "trying to resurrect the union from the low state to which it has fallen."

Declaring, "I'm not ashamed of our union,—I'm proud of it!" Jandreau mentioned a few of Local 301's achievements in raising wages, bettering working conditions, stopping the sale of jobs and fighting for equal pay for women.

"The National Manufacturers Association doesn't like UE-CIO. I'm sure the local GE management doesn't like Local 301. They don't get away with the chiseling practices they try to."

Leaflets Under Fire

Jandreau started with the first anonymous leaflet of the "Democratic Action" group and ripped into the entire series for saying "what GE and every union buster in town is glad to hear." The faction has attacked UE, PAC and the entire CIO, he pointed out.

"One day they praise Phil Murray and the next they throw him in the bag with everyone else. They attack PAC which is part of CIO and has the full backing of Phil Murray."

In opposing the \$1.50 dues rate of Local 301, the "Democratic Action" group is really suggesting seceding from UE, Jandreau declared.

"The \$1.50 dues are now part of the national constitution of UE."

Only 1 Strike in 11 Years

Jandreau condemned the strike alarm spread by the leaflets.

"We've only had one strike here in 11 years," he said. "We will not strike until we are forced to,—and until the membership of this union says so."

The "Democratic Action" group has centered its campaign on vilifying the union officers, Jandreau charged.

"Our method of choosing our officers in the past has been by their union records," he said, "not by what the GE, or the Chamber of Commerce, or political organizations, or churches or fraternal organizations think of them."

"The day we start changing from this is the day our union is going to crash."

Meetings Are Called For Building Trades

Following Works Manager J. M. Howell's flat refusal to meet with a government conciliator in the dispute over building trades wages, apprenticeships, and other conditions, the committee of Building Trades representatives has called a series of special meetings in craft groups to consider the matter.

Meetings will be held at 7:30 in the evening at the union hall, Liberty and Erie Boulevard, as follows:

Thursday (tonight): Tinsmiths.

Monday, Nov. 25—Masons, Roofers, Carpenters, Glaziers, Painters, Pipe Fitters, in one group;

Millwrights, Riggers, Crane Repairmen, in another group.

Tuesday, Nov. 26—Ironworkers.

Helpers will meet with their respective crafts.

Federal Conciliator John A. Rooney of Albany was assigned to the case after the union requested the Department of Labor to intervene in the deadlock. Howell declined to meet Rooney, telling him that it was against company policy to meet the union with a conciliator present until the union had gone through every step of the grievance procedure. The building trades committee has taken the stand that the issue of wages for building tradesmen went to the top management level in New York before this in the related trades case, without result and again in individual craft cases, and that this time the committee would insist on a settlement locally.

They explained that they would run only on the committeemen's slate approved by the membership meeting and that they wanted opposition candidates on the ballot.