

## Workmen's Compensation

### Benefits for Injured Workers

(This is the eighth in a series of articles on Workmen's Compensation written by Leon Novak, the Union's lawyer.)

U. E. members have won a number of compensation cases in court with the help of the Union's lawyer. The following are a few of these cases which were won:

A worker suffered a hernia in the plant following a strain. In most cases, an operation repairs the hernia and the case is closed when the company pays the medical and surgical bills and compensation for lost time. In the case of this worker, however, several operations were performed. The hernia was successfully repaired but the worker became very nervous as a result of the operations. A compensation claim was then made for the nervous condition. The case was won and now the worker is receiving compensation for the disability which resulted from the worker's nervous condition.

A worker contracted a disease of the lungs resulting from inhaling dust while performing his work. This weakened him and as a result he contracted tuberculosis. Despite his doctor's advice to quit his job, he continued to work. A claim was filed on the ground that he was totally disabled notwithstanding the fact that he was still working. The worker won his case with the result that whenever he stops working compensation benefits will start immediately without any further court delays.

A worker was employed for nine years as a chipper. During these nine years the noise around him affected his hearing. The doctors testified that he lost 70% of his hearing because of the noise. The worker is receiving an award of \$3,360 which is the maximum the law provides for such a loss of hearing.

### Court Trial to be Held at Worker's Home

While a worker's compensation case was pending in court, he became very sick with a condition which had nothing to do with his occupation. The worker is too sick to come to court on his compensation case. In order to pro-

## American Safety Razor Strike

Over 1,100 members of the U.E., Local 475, who work for the American Safety Razor Company, have been on strike for three weeks. The workers are demanding a substantial increase in wages.

The wages in the razor blade industry are very low even though the profits of the American Safety Razor Company are very high. The demand is for a 20 cents an hour increase. The present top rate is \$1.03 per hour.

American Safety Razor Company workers produce the following razor blades: Gem, Silver Star, Blue Star and Treet blades; also American Safety Razor lighters and Ever-Ready brushes.

A committee of strikers appeared before the Executive Board of Local 301 and explained the issues involved. They requested support from our membership by way of publicizing the issues of the strike and requesting the members to send post cards to the American Safety Razor Company, 315 Jay St., Brooklyn, N.Y., urging them to sit down and negotiate.

The Executive Board of Local 301 voted a \$100.00 contribution to the strikers. The Board also voted to recommend to the next membership meeting concurrence with the request of the strike committee to sponsor a post card campaign.

Protect the worker and his family and so as to get him a settlement on his injury, the Union's lawyer made an application to have the compensation trial held at the worker's home instead of in court. This application was granted and the trial will be scheduled at the worker's home.

## William Mastriani Reports Action

William Mastriani, Executive Board member, keeps things moving in his section. Whenever a member has a complaint, Bill sees to it that the shop steward processes the case immediately. Bill is one of the charter members of Local 301 and has had a great deal of experience in the handling of grievances. His slogan is, "If the complaint has merit, we will get results". Bill recalled a few cases settled last week in his section.

1. Increased some Machinists Class "A" 5 cents per hour in Bldg. 69, first floor, with the assistance of shop steward, Vincent Di Lorenzo.

2. Worked out a more satisfactory vacation schedule, affecting a large number of members.

3. Won some back pay for a member, who was classified improperly, and a change of rate in Bldg. 73.

4. Stopped an I.U.E. representative from molesting some women employees with an air hose in Bldg. 69, first floor.

"There's plenty to do", says Bill, "if a Union representative is on the job."

## I.U.E. Leaflet Wrong as Usual

In the May 17th issue of the I.U.E. propaganda leaflet they printed a story about Tinsmiths in Bldg. 273. The grievance referred to affected the safety guard makers in Bldg. 60. The Company offered a 5 cents increase to Class "A" Guard Makers, effective May 14th. The offer covers everyone in that classification.

The Guard Makers held a meeting and accepted the Company's offer.

## National UE-GE Negotiating Committee

(Continued from Page 1)

shall be subject to the approval of the Wage Stabilization Board.

### 5. Wage Rates

Nothing in this Wage Settlement Agreement shall in any way affect the provisions of Article VI, Section 1, of the GE-UE National Agreement, which provides as follows:

Any question which affects hourly rates, piecework rates or salary rates of individuals or groups, shall be subject to negotiation between the Local and the local Management.

### 6. Economic Issues — Wage Reopening

Under Article XXIV of the GE-UE National Agreement, "Economic Issues — Wage Reopening", proposals may be submitted on or after September 15, 1951.

### 7. Ratification

This Wage Settlement Agreement is subject to ratification by the UE Locals covered by the GE-UE National Agreement.

Dated: May 17, 1951

New York, New York

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO AND  
MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE)

GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA — LOCAL 301, U.E.

Vol. 9 — No. 11

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, June 8, 1951

## Westinghouse Co. Wins Demands from I.U.E.

### U. E. Sends Delegates To Washington

The national officers of the U. E. have called for a delegation to Washington on Monday and Tuesday, June 11th and 12th, to visit congressmen and senators on extremely vital issues coming to a head in Congress at this time.

Hearings are nearing conclusion before the Senate and House Banking and Currency Committees on the extension of the Defense Production Act, which provides for continuation of the wage freeze, and the question of the effectiveness of price control and production controls under which the large corporations are getting bigger and richer. The U. E. position is against the wage freeze and for an effective price control and production program that helps small business.

The House Ways and Means Committee is about ready to present for debate in the House the new tax bill which provides for a 12½ percent increase in taxes paid to the Federal Government. In addition, new sales taxes are to be enacted while loopholes and low tax rates on profits are being continued. The U. E. wants taxes taken off low income sections of the people and put on the big profit corporations.

At the membership meeting last Tuesday two delegates were elected to represent Local 301. They are John Green, 2nd shift — Bldg. 66, and William Stewart, 1st shift — Bldg. 273.

A report will be made by the two delegates at the July membership meeting.

### U. E. Petitions for G. E. Warehouse

The U. E. filed a petition for an N.L.R.B. election at the Gloversville warehouse last Wednesday.

While only a few people are employed there, a delegation of Gloversville G.E. employees who attended the last membership meeting of Local 301, claimed conditions were pretty bad in the Gloversville plant. They pointed out that they needed a Union. Their rates are much lower than those at the Schenectady plant.

James Carey, president of the I.U.E. appeared before the U. S. Senate Banking Committee in Washington last week, representing the C.I.O., and told the committee that big business has offered labor higher wages if they will join in scuttling price controls.

"We of the C.I.O. emphatically reject this offer of a conspiracy against the public interest. We will have no part in this shameful deal" Carey stated. Before the echoes of his speech stopped ringing in the U. S. Senate, he made an agreement with the Westinghouse Corporation, the second largest company in the Electrical Industry, to accept an offer of 9 cents an hour increase in wages provided the corporation was permitted to increase their prices.

### I. U. E. Sends Letters to Harass U. E. Members

The I.U.E. is using a last resort by mailing propaganda to U.E. members at their homes. A number of U.E. members have brought in to the Union office letters sent out by Julius Uehlein, director of local I.U.E. activities, sent into Schenectady from Ohio. The letter appeals to G.E. employees for a second N.L.R.B. election, calling for a repeat performance of 1949-1950 when G.E. employees were set back several years in their struggle to obtain better wages and working conditions. They say that they had sufficient cards signed in 1949 to get an N.L.R.B. election. The fact is, they could not get the necessary 30% signed cards in 1949 and an election would not have been held if the G.E. Company has not intervened and requested an election, which is permitted under the Taft-Hartley Law.

The I.U.E. cannot cover up their record of disruption and sell-out by using propaganda and lies to discredit others. There is tangible proof in the record, which they cannot deny. Their contract compared to the U.E. contract speaks for itself. The fact that the G.E. workers in Lynn and the Westinghouse workers in Pittsburgh have had enough of the I.U.E. and are demanding an election speaks for itself. The sell-out of the Westinghouse workers on the 9 cents wage offer subject to price increases speaks for itself. These facts cannot be denied.

### Another I. U. E. Group Wants Change

Newark, N. J.—A petition has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board for an election among approximately 600 Westinghouse salaried workers.

U. E. now represents 3,000 production factory workers in the Newark plant. The salaried workers went I.U.E. a year ago.

The offer made by the company, which Carey claimed was shameful and he and the C.I.O. would have no part of, was as follows:

9 cents an hour increase in wages provided the Corporation can get Government approval for an increase in prices by July 8th. If the Corporation is not permitted to increase prices, the offer is withdrawn.

Therefore, the Westinghouse Company won their first round for price increases before giving wage increases. But, that was not enough for double-talking Carey. Knowing that the U.E. obtained over 5,000 application cards in the big Pittsburgh Westinghouse plant, which is now represented by the IUE-CIO, and the U.E. is waiting to petition the N.L.R.B. for an election, Carey signed a one year extension of the present Westinghouse contract, which was to terminate in October of this year, with no improvements. This was done in hopes of setting up an obstacle to prevent an election. While the contract extension was done without improvements, it permits one wage reopener during the 12-month period.

The majority of the Westinghouse workers in Pittsburgh refused to join the I.U.E. An N.L.R.B. election is sure to spell defeat for the I.U.E. in that plant.

The same situation prevails in the G.E. plant in Lynn, where the U.E. petitioned for an election and the N.L.R.B. Board returned the applications, saying we would have to wait until twelve months after the election that was held last year.

While the I.U.E. is out raiding others, they allow unorganized conditions to exist in their own plants. For instance, approximately 300 workers are employed at Knolls II. The I.U.E. has approximately 94 on their check-off.

### ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
WORKERS OF AMERICA

SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301 UE

### Published by the Editorial Committee

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Vice-President.....JOSEPH MANGINO  
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Treasurer.....HENRY KAMINSKI  
Chief Shop Steward.....JAMES COGNETTA  
Business Agent.....LEO JANDREAU  
301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.



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### Benefits for Injured Workers

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#### Weekly Benefits

There has been a lot of confusion on the part of some workers as to the amount of weekly benefits that they are entitled to get after an accident and while they are unable to work. Some workers have assumed that as long as they are not working because of injuries from an accident, that they should be receiving the maximum rate of \$32.00 per week. The law does in fact allow for payments of \$32.00 a week, excluding the first seven days of lost time, but only if the injured worker is totally disabled during that time.

Now assuming that the worker has begun to improve under medical treatment while he is still away from work, and assume further that his doctor reports that he can now do some light work, then at that point the worker's compensation benefits can be reduced to the extent that he is able to work. For example, a worker has an accident in which he injures his back on June 1, 1951. He is forced to stay away from work and gets medical treatment during that time. During the first 5 weeks the doctor reported that he is totally disabled. The worker gets \$32 a week compensation for the first 5 weeks. Then the doctor reports that the worker can now do light work but that he still has a serious or "marked" disability. At this point the worker's compensation can be reduced to only 75% compensation even though he has not yet returned to work. Likewise, as his condition is reported by the doctors to be further improved, his compensation can be reduced even further (to 50% or even 25%) despite the fact that he has not yet returned to work.

From this it readily can be seen that a worker who is receiving compensation while away from work should consult his doctor as whether his physical condition permits him to return to some kind of work and if it does he should try to get back to some light work. Then

### Portrait of a Lobbyist—



if he loses any pay, he is entitled to get two-thirds of what he is losing in pay, as compensation benefits.

### U. E. Stewards to Organize Office Workers

A letter was sent to all shop stewards in U. E. Local 301 requesting them to act as members of an organizing committee to organize the office workers into the U. E.

Schenectady G. E. is the only large plant of the Company where the salaried workers are not organized. The Union office has received a number of applications from the salaried workers requesting organization. They have plenty of complaints that could be easily rectified if they had a contract and grievance procedure.

The objective will be to organize the salaried workers into a separate local union where they can have their own autonomy like any other U. E. local union.

The signing of the salaried workers will be done on an application card for an N.L.R.B. election. This does not require initiations or dues during the campaign period.

### Here is Injustice — What Do You Think?

A steward of Local 301 U. E. reported the following story to Union Headquarters. It brings back memories of the depression in the early 30's, and we wonder if they will come again.

A worker living in Gloversville who had become tubercular was forced to go on relief to feed his wife and three children. Friends and relatives chipped in to buy a television set for the family since they could not afford to send their children to the movies or any other amusement.

The relief investigator notified the family that they would have to get rid of the television set or be cut off relief rolls. This the investigator claimed was orders from the N. Y. State Relief Department to cut down on relief chiseling. The family was forced to return the set to the people who had given it to them while the children cried.

The investigator also noticed that there was a washing machine in the house and said that was also a luxury; however, she would not make an issue of it at this time.

## G. E. LOCALS RATIFY WAGE AGREEMENT

The deadline for ratification of the 9 cents wage agreement was Monday, May 28th, for all G.E. Locals coming under the UE-GE National Agreement. The national office has notified us that a majority of the G. E. Locals have ratified the Agreement.

The national notified the Company immediately. The latest report we have received at the Union office is that the case was before the Division of Analyzation of the War Stabilization Board this past week. It was expected to be sent to the War Stabilization Board either this week or next. We will arrange to transmit the decision through the shop stewards immediately when it is received at the Union office.

Approximately 6,400 members of Local 301 voted on the wage agreement. The Executive Board recommended department meetings in the plant in order that all members would have opportunity to vote.

The vote reported by Executive Board members was as follows:

Exec. Bd. Member	Dept.	Bldg.	No. Participating	For	Against
Schaffer		52-60			
Bagnato	Welded Prod.	64-66	460	460	
Jacobsen	Trans.	84-227	175	175	
Friedlander		15-17-9			
Christman					
Kernaghan	Small Motors	18-40	591	564	27
Sickinger	Turbine	273, 1st shift	100	100	
Stewart	Turbine	273, 1st shift	700	699	1
Vitallo					
Alois	Turbine	273, 2nd shift	570	566	4
Gebo	Turbine	273, 3rd shift	700	700	
Mastriani	Ind. Control	69-73	400	364	36
Kaminski	Box	72-76	100	100	
O'Rourke	Res. Lab.				
	Spec. Metals	10-37	175	175	
DeMasseo	Gas Turbine	49	260	260	
Hildreth	Shipping	59	75	72	3
Scott	Ind. Control	285	350	344	6
Pita	Aero.	46	150	149	1
Simpson	Aero.	28	333	331	2
Quick		12-14			
Belak	Motor & Gen.	16	550	550	
Phillips	Foundry	57-95	400	400	
Moon	Wire & Cable	85	140	140	
Thomas	Res. Lab.	Campbell Ave.	258	253	5
			6487	6402	85

### Attempt Penalties for Absenteeism

Apparently orders were issued in the Motor Generator Department to refuse to allow any employee to work on Saturday if he was absent during the week for any reason.

The Union office received several phone calls from stewards in this section complaining that foremen notified members of the Union that they could not work on Saturday if they were absent from work Monday through Friday. The specific complaints were sent in to the management, who investigated and reported back that the individuals involved would be allowed to work on Saturday.

The department heads were probably thinking of the 9240 Order during World War II which required a worker to have 40 hours of work before he would be paid overtime on Saturday or Sunday.

### Membership Cards To Be Mailed

The Union office is sending the quarterly membership card, which certifies dues paid for April, May and June, to those members who are on the check-off or pay cash at Union Headquarters.

The cards will be sent to the address available at the Union office. If a member's address has been changed, he may not receive his membership card. Members who do not receive their cards can notify the shop steward and give him their present address.

Quarterly membership cards will be sent at the end of each quarter.

The Union points out that the contract provides for an equal distribution of overtime among those employees qualified to do the job. No penalties should be enforced because of a justified absence from the job.

## I.U.E. Trying to Sell Maqua Workers

With the usual I. U. E. program of fear injected into the people by red-baiting, leaflets have been distributed by I. U. E. at the Maqua plant gates and meetings have been held, whereby representatives of the I. U. E. have made wild promises to the Maqua employees if they will join their company union.

The I.U.E. claimed to represent the majority of the G.E. employees in their appeal to join their union. The only issued raised in their campaign is, watch out for the Reds. The fact that the I.U.E. contract is inferior to the U.E. contract cannot be mentioned. The fact that the I.U.E. has 94 dues paying members in Schenectady at the Knolls is not being mentioned. There are already a number of unions established at Maqua. The unorganized are mainly in the Distribution and Bindery Sections. The International Brotherhood of Book Binders, A. F. of L., is also involved in the campaign to organize Maqua.

U.E.'s position in this campaign is that the Maqua employees will receive more protection either from the Book Binders' union or from the U.E., which now represents a majority of G.E. employees in Schenectady.

Every U.E. member who knows people working in the Maqua, which is a subsidiary of G.E., should advise them not to vote for the I.U.E., because wherever they have obtained a foothold, the standards and working conditions have been lowered. Ask them to compare the I.U.E. company union contract with the U.E. contract, which speaks for itself.

The N.L.R.B. is holding a conference on Friday, June 15th, to discuss an election for Maqua employees.

### Back Pay for Punch Press Operators

Twelve Index Punch Press Operators will receive back pay up to \$75.00 per operator as a result of a settlement of a grievance processed by shop stewards Barney Lis and Robert Northrop in the Punch Press Division last week.

The case was processed to management where a settlement was reached on an automatic progression schedule from the starting rate to \$1.505 per hour on day work set-ups. Where the set-ups involve 80 or more hours in any month, their day rate will be increased one step. In general, this means an operator will progress to \$1.505 per hour within six months.

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